

**INQUIRY INTO OPERATION OF THE POINT TO POINT
TRANSPORT (TAXIS AND HIRE VEHICLES) ACT 2016**

Name: Mr Jim Dowd

Date Received: 22 May 2020

Partially
Confidential

My name is Jim Dowd. I have been part of the Metropolitan Taxi Service in Sydney since 1970. I have driven, leased and still own

Taxi operations have for the most part been my main source of income. I have been part of Co-Operatives: ABC, Red Deluxe (now 13CABS), Manly and Central Coast Taxis in Gosford over the period.

I have lived through good times and bad from pilot strikes to interest rates of 19%, but the Point to Point era is a constant nightmare. I never wanted a favour, just a "fair go".

My licence plate is currently lodged with Services NSW and may possibly never be active again.

Since the advent of "illegal ride share" operations for an extended period, and the Liberal Government's Point to Point legislation, life has changed.

The Taxi Industry never operated outside the law and attempted to cope with regulations with good intent.

It struggled through "Driver Screens", failure to initially be allowed cameras in Taxis and constant intervention in other areas relating to Dispatch, Penalty Rates and many more.

Then "illegal ride share" completely changed our highly regulated industry. This operated outside the law for over two years with no action taken by Government.

The Liberal Government belatedly passed the Point to Point legislation which legalised "ride share" but re-regulated the Taxi Industry.

Pleas for a level playing field have gone unheeded, even pleas to ease insurance costs took months to be put in place.

The Liberal Government plastered the Taxi Industry with "red tape" which the industry had to implement and pay for.

A NSW Government payment to licence holders of \$20,000 to compensate for a one year loss of revenue was taxed as income by the Federal Government, another failure to help the Taxi Industry.

A second fund of \$145 million for direct assistance to licence holders in extremely difficult circumstances contained conditions so harsh that, as far as I am aware, much of it has still not been delivered to those in need.

The market value of taxi licences has plummeted and the Government did what it does best - nothing. It is complicit in the ruin of many within the Taxi Industry.

As mentioned previously my taxi licence plate has been returned to Services NSW (there are some 3,000 others). It is worth nil there, and it is earning nil for the foreseeable future.

I blame the Liberal Party of the time for the Point to Point legislation and all the other Parties who voted "Aye" without any knowledge or care about their actions, or where these actions would lead.

Bitter!! Yes I am.