

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

27 May 2020

Portfolio Committee No.6 Transport and Customer Service

Operation of Point to Point Transport Taxis and Hire Vehicles Act, 2016

Dear Committee Members,

My husband and I herewith express our submission on the detrimental Impact of the legislation on the value of our Taxi Plate, our Taxi lease fee, the decimation of the Taxi industry and as a result detrimentally impacting us financially and our health and mental wellbeing. Therefore, we are calling for the government to buy back our licence and pay our money back.

My husband and I purchased our Taxi Licence in good faith in September 2011 for \$425,000 plus \$15,000 for stamp duty with our hard earned life savings and with part loan from the bank.

The taxi licence value now is less than \$100,000. We have suffered a very heavy blow financially and health wise and continue to do so.

At the time we purchased our Taxi Licence my husband had been a taxi driver for 6 years prior.

We trusted in the many decades old, safe and secure heavily government regulated operation of the Taxi industry along with the government's Taxi licence lease tenders being leased between \$33,000 to \$40,000 per annum.

At the time we purchased our Taxi Licence, the lease income from our Taxi licence was approximately \$2,800 per month (approx. \$33,600 p.a.) Two months ago it was around \$1200 per month, which is less than half of what it used to be. Now it is zero due to Covid19 and no support is provided for this.

Considering the secure government regulated nature of the taxi industry at the time and the fact it was illegal to commercially carry passengers without a Taxi licence, made us to decide to put our life savings and borrow money from the bank to purchase our Taxi licence as my husband was already a Taxi driver in this industry 6 years prior.

Also the fact that my husband is very hard working, his English reading and writing about average and the fact he worked in very heavy labour factories previously made taxi driving a good option for him at his age.

We set up our own taxi vehicle in 2012, my husband as owner day driver and leased it for night driver. This was to continue until retirement or until we could no longer work. Thereafter, for it to provide income in our retirement as our superannuation through leasing the Taxi licence.

My husband was owner driver and another driver did the night shift until December 2015 when the government deregulated the Taxi industry and made Rideshare legal. Which we never had imagined the government would do in Australia that highly regards the law, fairness and justice. As it was absolutely illegal to commercially carry passengers without a Taxi licence.

As a result of the deregulation we lost our driver to Rideshare. Since then it has been impossible to get a driver, so my husband was the only driver until our taxi vehicle fulfilled its term last year.

Since the deregulation we both have been devastated by the impacts of the deregulation. It has caused us immense distress and caused loss of our health and wellbeing and we suffered a huge blow to our financial situation as this was our hard earned life savings and our superannuation to provide for us in our retirement and something for our two adult sons if they ever needed a job and handing it down to them when we pass away.

We worked so hard to achieve this very valuable Taxi licence and we did.

However, not long after achieving this very valuable hard earned asset, it was taken away from us by the government's deregulation of the Taxi Industry and our hard earned life savings was given to Rideshare for free and we are now left with a tin plate.

We had to work night and day to pay \$440,000 plus interest so we could drive to commercially carry passengers yet Rideshare can just do the same job with their own car for free now.

As a result of the detrimental impacts of the deregulation on us, the government needs to pay back our \$440,000.

My husband and I are both approaching 60 years of age and we both have many health issues and unlikely to work much longer. I work part time and unlikely to work much longer as I too have health issues. My husband tries to work full time but has health issues as well and gets even more depressed trying to work as there is not enough jobs in the taxi industry anymore as all the jobs get taken by Rideshare which further exasperates his health.

We feel cheated and robbed as we are the ones who put up our hard earned \$440,000 in order to commercially carry passengers legally.

Rideshare is not required to put up a massive \$440,000 to get the approval to commercially carry passengers.

We as legal taxi licence owners lost over \$440,000 from this deregulation which has detrimentally impacted us financially and our health and mental wellbeing.

Considering our enormous financial loss as a result of the deregulation, as well as our health and wellbeing and the decimation of the Taxi industry, we are calling to the government to firstly pay our \$440,000 without delay as we are suffering continuously.

Then, for the government to continue to collect revenue through the passenger levy, also to lease out bought back Taxi Licences.

We hope for your favourable and immediate decision considering how this deregulation has been detrimentally impacting us and continues to do so.