

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

Name: Mr Paul Lenehan and Mrs Frances Lenehan

Date Received: 22 May 2020

Partially
Confidential

Paul and Frances Lenehan

22 May 2020

To: The Director, PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO.6
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

RE: Inquiry into the Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Car Vehicle) Act 2016

I successfully obtained a Taxi Licence in June 1960 to supplement my income because of my upcoming marriage.

My wife and I purchased our first taxi on 29/07/77 for \$25,000 and we were sure that operating/driving a taxi was a big part of our future.

In July 1988, my wife and I purchased our second taxi for \$150,000. It was from this point that I put all my energy and effort into the taxi industry as I believed this industry had a sound future.

In the same year, 1988 the NSW Government prompted purchasing taxi plates as a "licence to make money" We were quite happy with our purchase of as it would be a solid future to support my growing family. I have attached a copy of this for your perusal.

In 1989 the NSW Ministry of Transport continued to promote taxi auctions. This assured my wife and I that we had made a good business decision in being an owner/driver of and .

I was the director of ABC Taxis for 14 years and was heavily involved in the NSW Taxi Council. At one point I was invited to be an advisor for the NSW Government about taxi matters throughout metropolitan Sydney. I also was an advisor for the Lower North Shore municipalities traffic committees (Mosman, North Sydney, Willoughby and Lane Cove) during the same period.

It was due to ill health we needed to sell for \$360,000 in 2012. We then leased to ABC Taxis as my health situation would not allow me to drive taxis anymore.

Before the point to point business, we were receiving \$2,300 a month in lease payments for . This month (May 2020) we received the sum of \$1 for the month, a loss of \$2,299 a month. In fact it cost more to send me the notification than what I actually received.

Currently my wife and I are receiving the pension due no fault of our own but the sudden crash in the taxi industry has left us with no retirement funds after being an owner/driver for 43 years. My wife and I are now having to obtain occasional monetary gifts from our children to assist with simple living expenses.

I have been informed that plate was handed back on 26/3/20 by the lessee, and as a result it has now become unsaleable and therefore has no value. This is a total loss of my investment of \$150,000 purchase price. So much for the promise of a licence to make money.

For a man in his 80s who has devoted more than 60 years to a so-called "thriving industry", this is nothing less than appalling.

I believe that a just solution to this problem is for the NSW Government to buy back taxi from the monies that they received in booking levies over numerous years.

Due to extensive experience in this area and having a clean and unblemished driving record whilst driving a taxi, I would be willing to assist you and participate as a witness to give evidence to this submission. I also give my permission to have my submission published in its entirety only.

Yours Sincerely ☺

Paul Lenehān