

Reference number CR1752

**Contact name**

Darryl Bain

**Is your submission confidential?**

No

**Submission type**

Have Your Say

**Comment**

TAXI (Queensland) - For the purposes of disclosure, I am a taxi license owner in Queensland. The following illustrates why it would not be in the public interest to deregulate the taxi industry in Queensland. Passenger safety would be compromised due to the fact that no training or police checks would be required of drivers. There would be no way of knowing: who the driver was, whether they have a criminal history, if the vehicle is in good repair, if it is fitted with a GPS tracking system and security camera, is the driver qualified, does the driver understand the implications of driving commercially. Unregulated drivers and vehicles would not be required to have appropriate vehicle and public liability insurance for the operation of a commercial passenger vehicle. Passengers would be put at a clear disadvantage in the event of an accident with injuries. What recourse does the injured passenger have where no commercial insurance is in place? Unregulated drivers could pick and choose who and when they carried. The aged, disabled, Veterans, short trip passengers would all be disadvantaged as drivers would not have to conform to a code of conduct or supply specialized vehicles and services for the disabled. The current regulated taxi industry operates efficiently with 86% satisfaction rating. Drivers are professionally trained, are required to maintain vehicles in good repair and booking agents cater for ALL passengers. All regulated drivers and operators have appropriate commercial insurances to cover passengers and a strict code of conduct must be adhered to for the benefit of ALL passengers. The current regulations were set up for good reason which is to keep the industry safe and fair for all involved. As a small business owner with a substantial investment in a Queensland Taxi License, operating this license to its capacity ensures that the travelling public are being serviced at a professional and good standard. Deregulating the taxi industry runs the risk of those without a substantial investment, operating when and how they chose which would not offer a safe, quality nor reliable service to the travelling public.

Thank you for the opportunity to put forward my submission.