

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [taxiinquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Parliament Inquiry into Commercial Passenger Vehicle Reforms  
**Date:** Sunday, 23 June 2019 8:04:07 PM

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Dimitrios & Panagiota Dimitriou

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Taxi License Number: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Rod Barton,

I am writing to you in regards to the current reforms in the taxi industry and how it has affected me thus far.

Prior to the current reforms I had been a owner driver since 1979, where I was paying off my taxi license that I had bought at the time and servicing the public under very difficult conditions whilst trying to raise a young family.

I had bought my taxi license thinking it would be an investment for me in later years to come.

Now that I have reached the age of 74 I have currently nothing to retire on other than the 100,000 that was given to me by the government for the Fairness Fund which I am currently paying back with the Taxi Levy that has been introduced by the current Government.

In regards to the current reforms and their affects on myself and my family, I have been forced to continue working as a driver to be able to pay my household bills and keep a roof over my head. The retirement plans I once had and hoped for are no longer viable. As a current driver my earnings have decreased on the average 60%, which a major drop in earnings.

In my opinion to improve the industry I believe radio fees which are paid every 4 weeks at \$800 should be reduced to a maximum of \$300.

Also all the new licenses that were released should be cancelled and of course the legalisation of rural/country taxis working now in the Metropolitan areas should be abolished and remain in their rural/country areas.

In all these matters I unfortunately blame the Victorian Transport Minister/Ministers and the most corrupt VTD who are totally inept in running this so call service and who have

ruined this industry completely.

Also I blame the Taxi Service Commission and Prof Allan Fels who is now I believe a Director with Uber. At the time of the Commission Prof Fels was meant to give positive reforms to the Taxi industry which did not occur and instead the Taxi industry as we knew it was totally ruined.

My final statement in regards to this matter is my wife and I have been working and paying our taxes in this country for over 50 years and with the current situation in the industry we will both continuing to work until our dying days instead of being able to enjoy our last few years together. Which unfortunately is a sad state but very true.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my story.

Yours sincerely

Dimitrios(Jim) Dimitriou