

Economy and Infrastructure Committee

Inquiry into the Commercial Passenger Vehicle Industry Act 2017 Reforms.

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Honourable Members of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee,

Since my early twenties, I have been part of the Taxi industry as a driver, operator and finally a licence holder. Since 2012 when the Alen Fels inquiry was announced I have been financially hamstrung, unable to make any major financial decisions. The effect of the Victorian Government reforms in 2017 has been devastating to my financial position and my family. The effects of this continue to remain and will linger for many years to come. The transition payment and fairness fund were absorbed entirely by debt that had to be repaid as I no longer enjoyed an income from my two taxi licences. However, I now find myself unable to repay the subsequent tax debt and need to redraw on my loan. Could your committee consider the following:

- I did not choose for an illegal rideshare company to enter into the Victorian market thereby undermining the lawful, regulated industry.
- I did not choose for the illegal rideshare company to avoid detection, regulation and enforcement from the Taxi Services Commission by adopting illegal covert software such as greyball and others.
- I did not choose the Victorian Government to sit on their hands for at least 2 years while the illegal rideshare entity gained popularity and market share.
- I did not choose the Victorian Government to conclude that the only way forward was to revoke my two taxi licences that were acquired after 35 years of hard work thereby stifling my retirement plans.
- I did not choose to apply for my own compensation in such a degrading manner.
- I did not choose to be poorly compensated and suffer a capital loss of over \$583,000 that, realistically, will never be regained. This is an accounting loss. The real amount is much larger.
- I did not choose the Victorian Government to characterise the fairness fund as income thereby giving rise to my current tax debt of approximately \$32,000 that I cannot afford.

Please consider the above in your deliberations.

Respectfully Yours

Tony Candido

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