

The Secretary
Legislative Council, Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Via email: taxiinquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au

27 May 2019

Dear sir/madam,

My name is Kon Avramidis and in 2001 I took out a loan to invest in a perpetual taxi licence in Victoria. I have participated in the taxi industry as a both a driver and an investor.

The revocation of my taxi licence has absolutely devastated my life. I am now 51 years of age and since the introduction of the taxi reforms I have had to deal with constant stress, anxiety and panic attacks over the future of my financial security. After a stressful first marriage breakdown, I managed to get my life back together and move on with my now second wife. I was also secure in the thought that even though my first wife took the family home, I had the taxi licence to fall back on for income and my retirement.

The loss of my taxi income and the revocation of the taxi licence was financial decimation for me and brought a huge amount of stress and tension into my second marriage. At one stage I lost the will to get up in the morning and it is only through the support of my current wife that I have managed to keep going.

My plans were for a self-funded retirement but these plans have all been taken away from me. I have no superannuation as the licence was my retirement investment. I now cannot see myself retiring until I receive a measly pension, at age 67.

I applied for the so called fairness fund and was relieved to receive some funds that contributed to supporting in paying my taxi loan, only to find that I had to hand back almost 30% back to the tax department.

I have given up on the taxi industry and returned to full-time panel beating to pay off a substantial debt I still have from the taxi business at age 51, that will never provide me with any return or an asset. I am financially broke and after having worked all these decades I have no prospect of ever being able to acquire another asset in my life or be able to look forward to a comfortable retirement.

I feel like the Victorian government has robbed us of our perpetual assets, our retirement plans and the happy and secure future I had always hoped for me and my family.

I no longer have any faith in the transport industry, our governments nor the TSC (now CPVV) whose priorities and agendas only seem aligned with accommodating multi-national corporations and creating poorly paid jobs.

Yours sincerely,



Kon Avramidis

