

George Soitaridis

The Secretary  
Legislative Council  
Economy and Infrastructure Committee  
Parliament House, Spring Street  
East Melbourne  
VIC 3002

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I would like to provide some comments from a personal perspective on the undemocratic reforms of the Taxi Industry. Whilst I have previously responded to the draft Taxi Industry Reform submission put forward for public comment I would also like to make some comments on the personal impact this has had on me and my family as a previous taxi licence holder.

The Victorian Government has been issuing licences and bought by individuals in "good faith" on the basis that the industry can sustain workloads with the addition of new licences. Licences continued to be issued by Government on defined terms and conditions and with the full knowledge and regulation of licence values and fares. To have this model change and cause dilution of licence value via a "strike of the pen" is unprofessional and portrays a poor management approach and lack of business confidence in the Government.

The Government was intent on deregulation despite the known hardships (via submissions) of licence owners and drivers. Deregulation and the compulsory acquisition of licences has had an immediate and detrimental financial impact on me as an ex owner, I invested substantially in purchasing a licence in good faith from the Government for my future retirement & superannuation income.

I'm 57 years old, 3 children and a large mortgage which I'm struggling to service the repayments. I try to undertake part time work in order to meet my living expenses, & put aside what's left for my retirement. I am an average individual with a large family trying to secure my retirement income whilst trying to overcome many hard fiscal years.

I have difficulty in sleeping, holding concentration and difficult at times to motivate myself during the day. I've been told I have symptoms of depression from my close family friends, however I'm reluctant to see my medical doctor for private reasons. I've worked 27 years to afford a taxi licence, raise up my children and support my wife with a view of securing a reasonable retirement to see it all taken away overnight with a token if not insulting buy back price offer.

There are numerous examples/precedents were Government's step in to assist businesses/workers in financial trouble and provide financial support to secure workers entitlements superannuation and other earned benefits. However it has been made quite clear that taxi drivers/owners have no rights or voice other than token industry reviews with preconceived recommendations and outcomes.

I hope my letter does not portray selfishness but rather the personal and family anguish, financial hardships and loss that I have faced at no fault of my own as a result of the taxi deregulation.

I still struggle to this day to understand how at no fault of my own I lost everything I worked hard and saved for.

Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to read my letter.

Yours Sincerely

