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

By email: [taxiinquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:taxiinquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Legislative Council, Economy and Infrastructure Committee's (the Committee) inquiry into the *Commercial Passenger Vehicle Industry Act 2017* (the Act) reforms.

Maurice Blackburn Pty Ltd is a plaintiff law firm with 32 permanent offices and 31 visiting offices throughout all mainland States and Territories. The firm specialises in personal injuries, medical negligence, employment and industrial law, dust diseases, superannuation (particularly total and permanent disability claims), negligent financial and other advice, and consumer and commercial class actions. The firm also conducts a large Social Justice practice.

As you will be aware, Maurice Blackburn has commenced a Class Action<sup>1</sup> on behalf of people who have suffered loss as a result of the unlawful manner in which Uber entered the market in Victorian, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

The claim is against Uber Technologies Incorporated and various other Uber entities (together, the Uber Entities). The claim alleges that the Uber Entities engaged in the tort of 'conspiracy by unlawful means', causing loss in the value of licences and loss of income.

In the course of offering this important means of access to justice for many thousands of Australians, Maurice Blackburn has heard numerous accounts of loss and hardship as a result of Uber's illegal conduct. More than 2,500 Victorians have already agreed to be part of the Class Action.

In our experience, the impact of Uber intentionally operating outside of strict Victorian regulations, prior to the introduction of the Act, has been devastating on commercial vehicle operators and their families. Many have relayed to our staff the horrifying impacts associated with financial loss and feelings of being unwitting victims of exploitation.

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<sup>1</sup> *Andrianakis v Uber Technologies Incorporated & Ors*, S ECI 2019 01926

Notwithstanding the payments made to industry participants by the Victorian Government in 2017, in our experience, many members of the class action continue to bear the consequences of significant losses associated with the decreased value of licences and loss of income.

Maurice Blackburn is confident that the Committee will hear numerous harrowing accounts of the impact of Uber's business model on Victorian families and small business owners.

Maurice Blackburn believes that it is appropriate and timely that a body such as the Committee objectively review the legislative and regulatory reforms which have been implemented. We encourage the Committee to focus on the manner in which Uber entered the market, their organisational culture and behaviours prior to appropriate regulation being introduced, and listen closely to the stories of those emotionally and financially impacted by those behaviours.

Should we be able to further assist the Committee in its important work, please do not hesitate in making contact via (03) 8102 2034 or email [EO'Shea@mauriceblackburn.com.au](mailto:EO'Shea@mauriceblackburn.com.au).

Yours faithfully,



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**Maurice Blackburn Lawyers**



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