

Taxi Inquiry. Victorian Parliament

To whom it may concern.

I didn't feel that I had any reason to make a submission to this Inquiry, as I reside in Western Australia. However, the inability & how the Victorian "Buyback & Reforms" were "Rammed" through without any concern to industry, resonated with me. You see, the Western Australian "Buyback & Reform", are virtually a Carbon Copy of the Victorian model. Both models were written up by the Victorian Policy advisors & in my Dialogue with both Government & Regulator, I was continually advised that, the W.A model was taken from the Vic model. The only difference was that, the W.A model was the most "Generous" of all in Australia.

I feel an obligation to comment on the Vic inquiry & feel that this is Erroneous & False, primarily because

1. That the Buyback, relates to a "Forced Re-Aquisition" of Taxi Licenses. These licenses hold value, as Property Rights & from inception, up until "Buyback", the value was Controlled & Manipulated by both Government, via the Regulatory Authority. In order for an operator to become a Taxi owner, they had to purchase the right, via a "Closed & Regulated" environment, Controlled wholly by the above.
2. The fees, being State Taxes & Transfer fees, were dictated by the Regulator, thus always ensuring an "Income Stream" to the Regulator. The Taxi owners, were Never in a Position to influence this, this was influenced by the fixed number of licenses available.
3. The Victorian Gov's Buyback, not only showed the flaws of it's own Regulator, but also the lack of Business acumen, obligations & compassion to the Taxi owners. How can 1 license hold a value that is different to subsequent licenses, when in fact each & every license is identical to the license that "Sits" alongside it.

In my opinion & those who I have spoken with at length agree that there is No Compensation of any sort. The Regulatory Authority of Western Australia, in fact, states, that a fair & equal resolution, can only be found by stating that the Buyback is of a Compulsory nature & that the appropriate \$ Value be paid, rather than the inadequate value paid by the Vic Gov. The documents released by the the Regulatory Authority of Western Australia support my view that the Buyback represents a "Compulsory Re-Aquisition" of Taxi plates. It is only through a play upon definition & "Spin", that the Victorian Government has been able to wash its hands of a True Responsibility of its Obligations & Dictate its own "Terms of Reference.

I look forward to keeping abreast of the the Inquiry at hand.

Regards

Athan Tsirigotis