

From: chris sergianis [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2019 9:48 PM
To: taxiinquiry
Subject: Submission - Parliamentary inquiry into Commercial Passenger Vehicle Reforms

To Whom It May Concern,

The introduction of the Commercial Passenger Vehicle Reforms affected our family in three ways;

1. Loss of Asset
2. Loss of Income
3. Loss of Superannuation

My wife and I purchased a licence in 2005 for \$328,000. We took a loan against our mortgage to fund the purchase.

The income from leasing the taxi licence at the time was \$2,500 per calendar month and allowed us to comfortably pay the mortgage.

We purchased the taxi licence from the government as part of our retirement plan to ensure we were not a burden to our children and the government in our retirement.

We received \$100,000 in transition payment however this still left us with a considerable debt of \$120,000.

We did not apply for the Fairness Fund as we deemed ourselves ineligible. We are no longer part of the industry.

Our income stream and our asset has been taken from us without fair and just compensation.

We no longer have a retirement plan.

We don't believe that the reforms have been positive for the industry. Standards have decreased. The market has an oversupply. Employees work for below the minimum wage.

We were fully compliant with all regulations with respect to owning a taxi licence.

It is beyond comprehension that a government rendered our asset worthless.

How does a government do that to its citizens?

How can the government ignore a ruling from the High Court stating that a taxi licence is property?

Why were we not properly compensated?

How was the compensation (transition) payments conceived and calculated?

Why were the transition payments not taking into account the compulsory acquisition of our asset and the loss of income?

Why was Uber allowed to operate in full disregard of the law for almost 3 years before the reforms were legislated?

The Taxi Services Commission did not uphold the rules and regulations with respect to Uber. Why? Who gave the instruction and why did the Taxi Services Commission not adhere to its own charter?

The parliamentary inquiry needs to respond to these questions. The government needs to be held accountable.

We are owed answers and compensation for loss of income, asset and future earnings.

It is inconceivable that a government can destroy an asset and destroy an entire industry.

In the previous State election we both voted Liberal for the first time as a protest to the Dan Andrews government.

Our anger at how we have been treated means that I am unlikely to vote Labour whilst Dan Andrews and Jacinta Allen in power.

We hold them both accountable for the destruction of the industry and the destruction of livelihoods.

Thank you for your time.

Chris and Anastasia Sergianis