

Giovanni Viola
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Dear Infrastructure Committee,

I am 85 years of age and a retired taxi driver and license owner. I purchased my taxi license in 1964 at a cost of approximately \$15,000 (currency change).

At the time I was in my early years of marriage and family and this was a massive financial investment. I recall that at the time I also considered an alternative investment which was to purchase a property in North Carlton at approximately the same value. The purchase of my license was always intended as a long term investment, one that would give my young and growing family a decent standard of living and then would provide for my wife and I in our retirement.

Prior to the reforms, I drove my taxi for 32 hardworking years. After retirement I leased my license which provided me with a modest income.

This license was purchased in good faith and at a certain value. When the government reclaimed my licence, they gave me \$100,000 for the licence that was worth in excess of \$500 000. Not only had my retirement fund been taken from me, my modest income to help with weekly living expenses had been reduced to nothing. Now all I have is a small token of what I previously owned and my pride and dignity as a hard working, tax paying Australian has been diminished. Had I made the alternative investment way back in 1964, I would be the proprietor of a multi million dollar property with a similar rental income. The government took that from me without consent or consultation.

I have lost my income, my investment and my pride. The government could not take any more from me, they have left me with nothing. This is also true of many of my former taxi colleagues and friends. Some of whom are no longer with us, as they took their lives at the thought of having nothing.

This process was completely unfair and unjust and has affected the lives of many hardworking and honest people. I am still in shock at how a government can take the money of so many people and get away with it. Hopefully you will understand the plight of all taxi owners and a fair, just and prompt outcome can be reached.

Yours sincerely

Giovanni Viola