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From: [Redacted]
To: [taxiinquiry](#)
Subject: Personal Hardship and Disadvantaged
Date: Monday, 3 June 2019 1:39:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Rod

I have been a taxi driver in Wodonga for over 30 years.

Marie and I have been owner/operators of taxis in Wodonga for over 25 years having purchased our first licence in 1996 and the 2nd in 2000. At the time of purchasing the Victorian government through their department (VTD) let taxi owners borrow against their own plates as an asset as we did. Marie and I borrowed over ½ a million dollars because of tight regulations from the VTD we thought this would be a good investment for our retirement (superannuation) and would be self-funded retirees when the time came.

We paid \$235,000 for the 1st licence and \$275,000 for the 2nd licence.

I am 71 and Marie 69 years old and are still operating taxis to support ourselves. We received \$50,000 per licence in transition payments but with all the damage the government did by deregulating the industry and allowing unregulated ride sharing by uber our income has diminished.

Over the years we have been heavily involved in the taxi industry, having implemented many regulations that they threw at us to service the needs of our local community which relied on a 24 hour service.

Regards Don and Marie

Don Thompson

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