

I would like to keep Names and contacts on "this Submission confidential" please..!

22/06/2019

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**Re: Commercial passenger Vehicle parliamentary submission.**

Dear Madam / Sir,

I am currently 45 years of age and was born in North Africa, migrated to Australia in 1995.

I ran away from a cruel government, believing that I can find a better life in a democratic country, not knowing of the hidden agenda in this so called democracy.

In 2000, I was diagnosed with heart problem that require operation. I was told that it will give me trouble after the age of 50, so i worked hard in order to build my future.

After many years of saving, i bought my first Taxi licence in 2013, then a second a year later with total borrowings of \$430K (including \$180K from family and a friend).

Considering that **Licences were classified perpetual** (lasting for ever) and **classified as property** by the commonwealth, we thought it was a safe investment, and was solely to be used for early retirement due to my heart condition.

My investment started by leasing out licences for \$2500pcm +GST per licence. By August 2016 the value of licences dropped by 75% to \$15000 after the cruellest announcement made by the government and in October 2017 the rental income became Nil.

The capital loss is \$420K.

The loan balance was still at around \$400K.

I applied to the Fairness Fund, but got declined with no explanation.

Now, I have nothing to show to my family and also lost my retirement.

Firstly government stole our licences, then it tried to act good and fair by creating the fair from unfair. The setup of the fairness Fund was clearly an indication of Government wrong doing, nothing else. If government wanted to show the public of its fairness to licence holders, it could done so by acquiring those licences through a fair, just and proper buy back. Not buy forcing a price of its liking on them.

Treating Licences differently is even a more severe punishment shown by the government. **Why do you get \$150K for 2 licences under one name and \$200K for two In 2 people names?** Is one better or different to the other?

This is by far worst deal i have ever seen by a so called democratic and fair state and country. This has definitely changed my belief about this country. It is even more concerning to witness the disrespect directed towards Taxi licences holders who are mostly older generation and immigrants.

Sometimes I question and wonder if those licences were held by a strong international company, could the treatment be any different to what has occurred?

The most irresponsible, inhumane and the least fairest deal I could ever imagined, had happened. How could a government force a price of their liking on a small group of innocent investors who did nothing wrong, but to stick and obey rules and regulations of the state and country and later punish them and kneel down to the demand of a multinational company and offer them everything they asked for on a silver platter while leaving former holders stranded and broke.

Since the heart breaking announcement we heard in August 2016, my life has never been the same. I was almost suicidal and lost the meaning of life. I could not look at my family the same way since then.

The new commercial vehicle registration is in my opinion is far worse than in some of the third world countries. The streets are more congested and driver's income has tumbled to 20 years back. I spoke to some of my friends who are still in the industry and they are all not happy with the situation. They have to work for more than 14hours per day to make \$200, including expenses. That is less than \$10 per hour after deductions.

This madness has to stop! Caped numbers is a must for the survival of the industry.

Just because the industry is not united, doesn't entitle the government to walk over them without any feeling. Fair country, Is it?

I hope politicians can wake up, put themselves in our shoes and show some sympathy and give a much deserved justice to the Ex-Licence holders and pay us the outstanding amount on our licences.

Regards

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