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The Secretary,
Legislative Council, Economy and Infrastructure Committee,
Parliament House, Spring Street,
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Thursday, 27 June 2019

**Re: The Inquiry into the Commercial Passenger Vehicle Industry
Act 2017 Reform**

Well where does one start without conjuring up rage, anger, frustration and disappointment towards the bodies involved in the decision making.

I am doing this submission with very little optimism for the outcome as many of us have put our cases forward but to no avail.

What was once meant to be our self funded retirement will be the cause of the loss of any savings plus the sale of our house trying to make ends meet on the pension.

The illegal entry of Uber followed by legal rideshare reforms have not only made our perpetual licence useless the income generated has greatly reduced not only for the owners but also the drivers. The market has become saturated with taxis and other rideshare companies flooding into Ballarat from Melbourne, Ballan, Bacchus Marsh as a result of the removal of zones. There is only so much work available and it has become impossible to make a living unless you supplement with another income. Not a possibility in our situation.

The availability of drivers is also an issue as many are opting to drive for themselves therefore the taxis are off the road at times which results in further loss of income.

Every month we are drawing on savings just to meet all the running costs with no prize at the end anymore.

Health has deteriorated due to financial and emotional stress, I recently suffered a small stroke. Luckily not severe but a warning sign that the stress is causing severe hypertension.

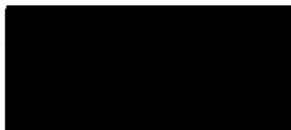
My husband is unable to drive (thus reducing the income) anymore. He was diagnosed with Huntingtons Disease symptoms which were exacerbated due to stress causing him to give up driving much earlier than planned. As it is a hereditary disease it is not covered on life insurance policies so we were relying on the value of two perpetual licences to see us through our old age.

I'm not sure how relevant this information is but this is the only option without supplying financials to show how desperate things have become.

Also on the financial note those who received anything from the Fairness Fund I believe that it was criminal for the ATO to consider it to be income when an asset has been forcibly taken.

An earlier decision which went against the owners was the 45/55 split without an adequate fare increase. We as non driving owners still had the same expenses to meet but with a reduced income (only income) as prices increased in running costs for example fuel, insurance, workcover and maintainance.

Yours sincerely



Jacinta (Jackie) Collins

DIRECTOR/SECRETARY

RIFT HOLDINGS PTY.LTD.

Bernard Collins

DIRECTOR