

From: Rajesh Gupta [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 May 2019 6:29 PM
To: taxiinquiry
Subject: Regarding submissions to taxi inquiry

Categories: Green category

1st of all I want to thank Rod Barton for fighting in Victorian parliament to let it happen.

Going ahead I would like to cover it in 2 parts.

My 1st part is ethics.

We talk everyday about ethics and money is secondary but in this particular case can anyone say the govt follow ethics.

I donot know whom to blame is it greed and unethical behaviour of uber, or its VTA who acts as a wolf in sheep skin, or it is owners who want to maximize profits from their investment, or it is drivers who could not fight for their rights, or it is greedy networks who influenced everything to their benefit, or it is operators who were sandwiched as a business person, or it is regulator who want to secure its position without working hard for the same or it is govt who feels it is all good and they can work around all the unethical stuff.

I heard Uber was using snowball (a software to dodge regulator world over. Now rumours are there uber is dodging old drivers who have their contract signed for 20% commission against new drivers who are signing contracts on 30% commissions.

Here I would like to say once a thief is always a thief. Anyway our own govt. put fate of hard working taxi drivers in the hands of greedy, unethical power hungry people. I sometimes doubt if we still live in a civilised world.

Uber had distorted market equilibrium by generating artificial demand (by way of freebies) and creating artificial supply (by way of paying drivers incentives) but sadly no one can see the same. All the economists like Prof Fel were silent. No accc in action reason the decision was about the fate of a hard working driver.

I can understand public could not see all of that but people in top jobs cannot visualize the same is a mystery to me.

I always learned that ethics are more important than money.

After looking through all these I am confused because it looks like money is taking over ethics in our every day life.

My second part is labour cost

I come from a third world country where labour is very cheap but resources are even more scarce.

In Australia I feel there are abundance of resources but labour is very costly. That is a reason a lot of people donot want to dare a business and a lot others could not survive.

But in all that there is silver lining that is taxis where you can dictate labour without any liabilities. A good plan. Instead of improving status quo for the drivers govt let him die.

Here I could like to add not big corporate goes bankrupt or out of business because of changes.

Reason is

1. Initially public was struggling with limited no of vehicles now drivers are suffering with limited no of jobs.

At that time law was supporting big business by saying every taxi had to be part of a network.

It still says the same by means of not breaking cabcharge monopoly. Again cannot understand how it goes unattended but industry is still open.

End results uber commissions had increased , 13cabs and silvertop depot fees still same even though they got 3 times extra taxis and no additional cost burden. To me it is an absolute lottery or in political sense absolute corruption. But no leader, no govt, no economist, no govt department.

I feel I should clap my hands. A magic happens and no one can catch the magician.

So in those circumstances I leave it onto inquiry committee to decide.

But definitely unlimited no of cars without a plan is creating a lot of trouble.

Drivers are taking extra risks by working long hours, having little sleep, speeding, fighting for work etc.

We live in a civilised society and forest rule has to be abolished.

Thanks a lot

Yours

A Cabbie