

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 27 May 2019 9:00 PM
To: taxiinquiry
Subject: The unlawful theft of my property

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Firstly I'd like to thank Rod Barton MP for giving us a voice! I also would like my name to be withheld but I want my story to be told!

I am a former Metropolitan Taxi- Plate Owner! I purchased my plates in 2007 and then they were taken away from me in August of 2017 by the Daniel Andrews led Labor State Government in an unprecedented move! This from all reports is a first of its kind where an asset is taken away from you against your will or without proper compensation! I acknowledge a payment was given to me but that in my eyes is just a deposit! We are still owed a substantial amount of money from the State Government! The decision to cancel my Taxi Plates by the Andrews Labor Party is an absolute disgrace! I can't believe this could happen in a Country where I was born in and is considered " The Lucky Country" There's 3000 or so families who's lives have been ruined by Daniel Andrews Labor Party! I also feel there's a racial undertone to this as most of us are of Greek background with a sprinkling of other nationalities mainly European! I feel we've been discriminated against and I know we've been lied to! How can a Government cancel my asset and only give me 20% of its value in return! It is an absolute disgrace and this wrong must be righted ASAP! The lies that have come out from the Labor Party are astonishing to say the least! Terms such as " The most generous package" Referring to the compensation package and " Leveling the playing field" Referring to the unregulated entity being allowed to operate in a regulated industry is an absolute disgrace! What has happened here is a transfer of wealth! My wealth has been stolen and given to someone else! It is that simple really! How Uber was allowed to operate illegally in a regulated industry is unbelievable! This was done under the watch of the Andrews Labor Party and they refused to enforce the land of the law to basically destroy our livelihoods! I want answers to why this was allowed to happen! If I choose to sell alcohol without the proper accreditation I would be fined and closed down by the proper authorities! Uber for some reason was allowed to operate as the regulators turned a blind eye to their illegal activities! When you think about what I've just said which is true it really is unforgiving how this was allowed to happen! The aftermath of the cancellation of my Taxi Plates has effected me greatly! I am only 38 years of age but the suffering that these reforms have caused me are incomprehensible! Depression, anxiety are rife in my life at the moment! I struggle to sleep at night, relationships in my life have been strained, I have lost contact with people that were in my life, thoughts of suicide have also entered my thoughts! This is due to the fact that my Taxi Plates were taken away from me from the Andrews led Labor Party! That is the impact that these heinous reforms have caused me in the last few years! I demand a Royal Commission take place into why this has happened to me and 3000 families! It is in my view one of the biggest injustices this state has ever witnessed! I want to know what I have done other than obey the law, while Uber didn't obey any laws to have my Taxi Plate revoked! No one that I've spoken to can answer that for me! I want an answer to that question by the States Transport Minister because it keeps me up at night! In concluding it is my view that every Metropolitan Taxi plate be acknowledged and worth \$500,000! That is per plate! That should be paid to every former Taxi Plate owner who owned a Taxi Plate! If you owned two that figure should be \$1,000,000 if you had three then that figure should be \$1,500,000 if you had four then that figure should be \$2,000,000 and so on if you owned more Plates than that! What has happened to Taxi Plate owners in this state is unjust and it has caused so much pain people to my knowledge have committed suicide because of these reforms! That's a major stain on this Government! I demand an apology from the Andrews Government I also demand proper compensation for the theft of my Taxi Plates! For me that is \$500,000 per plate! That is not including the psychological destruction that these ridiculous reforms have caused thank you!