

## Laurie Stewart

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**From:** Laurie Stewart  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 September 2024 1:05 PM  
**To:** ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au  
**Subject:** Review of maximum fares for rank and hail taxi services in NSW

Dear IPART

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on our current situation with Taxi fares and competition.

We are in our 25<sup>th</sup> year as the only Taxi operator in the Southern Highlands. With 23 taxis which we own, and which includes 4 wheelchair accessible vehicles, we provide a 24/7 service to our community.

It has not been easy since Uber illegally commenced in opposition, and it has been more difficult since they were legalised and almost anyone can now compete with a Rideshare car. The Taxi Industry is regulated unlike the others, with us having to provide security cameras, meters for fares, tracking devices, driver training and the high cost of Registration and Comprehensive Third Party Insurance, and the vehicle must be fully identified as a taxi, none of this did we complain about prior to deregulation.

Interestingly, around the world today Uber is being banned in many countries. The release of the "McGann Files" by the executive who travelled the world for UBER, with "incentives" for Politicians to allow them to operate, makes us question why the Taxi Industry has been treated so poorly. The "take back" of taxi licences for minimal compensation, further badly damaged the industry.

The taxi industry has not had Rank and Hail fare increases for many years, The cost of fuel has risen dramatically and that is our single biggest cost. While we have just seen an overnight drop in fuel prices, who knows how long this will last for and the bet is it will increase again shortly.

It is timely indeed for Rank and Hail fares to be increased to help compensate with the reduction in fare income due to the unfair competition from Uber and Rideshare.

Passenger safety has also been an issue with Uber and Rideshare, and everyone questions as to why they are not forced to provide similar protection to that of the Taxi industry?

We hope that the above is of assistance.

Kind Regards

**Laurie Stewart** 

