

BATEMANS BAY TAXI SERVICE

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IPART SUBMISSION

I would like to state my opposition to the draft IPART report: Review of taxi fares in NSW and taxi licences outside Sydney.

The recommendations in this draft report won't deliver better or cheaper country taxi services, rather they'll force out long-time reliable local operators.

A number of taxi businesses have closed down throughout rural and regional NSW. The recommendations in this report will only ensure more closures in the future.

If country taxis close down it will have a significant negative impact on our community including the local mechanics, pubs and hospitals who rely on business and transport for the elderly, school children and those with disabilities.

Hardworking Australians in the country areas are being left hung out to dry because of a failure to understand that the taxi industry is different in the country to the city.

There aren't many ridesharing apps in country NSW and the ones that do operate do so at their own convenience.

Taxis are the only transport service to operate on a 24/7 basis. From midnight to dawn emergencies pop-up such as picking up victims of domestic violence or people needing emergency trips to the hospital. They also help keep drink drivers off the roads.

The draft recommendations must be abandoned.

It's clear our country taxis just can't keep up with the inequities that exist across our industry anymore.

Country taxis need to remain viable. I ask the government to reject this unacceptable report so our local taxi services stay in business now and into the future.

If the government accepts this report as it is, it will be the big corporations or foreign investors who will buy up the licences, pushing out the little guys, which means country NSW will lose another local business and more local jobs.

Competition is needed in order to provide customers the best possible service, but country taxis won't be able to better service their communities by closing up shop.

Kind regards

Steven Hockey
Director
Batemans Bay Taxi Service

1st February 2018