

**I am a NSW Country Taxi Driver. 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 and drivers.

I am aware of 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 it will have a significant negative impact on our community from the local mechanics, pubs and hospitals who rely on business from taxis to the elderly, school children and those with disabilities.

Hardworking Australians in the bush 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 in our area that operate long hours. Emergency contact numbers are supplied to services. 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 and drink walkers off the roads.

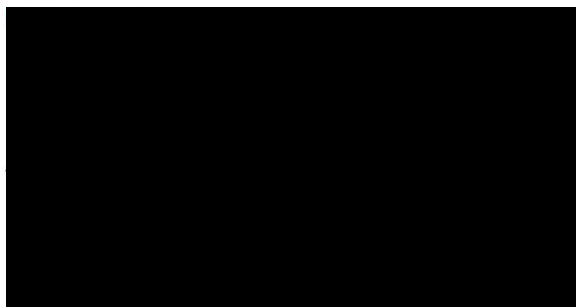
The draft recommendations must be abandoned.

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

In order for Country taxis need to remain viable, I ask the government to reject this unacceptable report so our local taxi service stays in business now and into the future for the economic and social benefit of our Community.

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 better service their communities by closing up shop.



Date

4.2.18