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Submission: Katoomba Taxis have been servicing the Blue Mountains for over 40 years. We have established a service led cooperative looking after the community and caring for its passengers who are mostly elderly and often infirm. As any taxi company we are there 24/7 with drivers often earning less than \$10/hr. We have been affected by the granting of 1 free plate to someone not a cooperative member, who is using a WAT plate as a free entry to rank and hail work. This licence operator is not scrutinised properly and as such harasses our client group. Not only affecting them(the client) individually but affecting our reputation, as he alludes to being a member of the cooperative. Irrespective of all the issues therein (which are considerable) this 1 plate has affected the driver earnings so badly that as a cooperative we believe we are in serious trouble in the near future at being able to find drivers. Our drivers who commit to being available on the 'slow' evenings/days are not able to 'make up' earnings on the busy nights because this is when the rideshare fraternity decide they want to work. As such, cherry pick their availability and work times. If the government were to release these extra unrestricted country plates it will not be long before there are no Taxis available at difficult times, and a vital public service will be lost. In this particular area there are limited alternative transport services available, rideshare etc will not pick up the pieces - they want the system to work for them, not the public. With the new regulations recently adopted it is surely impossible, unrealistic and certainly reckless to believe that any critical assessment can be made at this time. Any new project, system or regulation needs at least two years of bedding in before the effects can be measured, understood and used in any meaningful way. This idea of releasing more licenses will only undermine an essential service and create hardship for business owners, drivers and passengers.