

Gentlemen,

I am a taxi driver in beautiful downtown Coffs Harbour, and I have just heard about your proposal by Mr Boxall.

One does not obviously consider that we as drivers work on a 40% commission, from which we pay the usual tax etc.

We have to deal with TTSS dockets, other accounts or pre-paid bookings, that takes up time as we fill in both the paperwork and the "Smart-Move" program on the computer.

I for one, am trying to stay afloat, and after leaving the Defence Forces and hanging on desperately to my money, I find at the end of the day I am losing thanks to the current system .

I truly believe that customers will forever "whinge" about taxi pricing, as the general public consensus is that we are all rich cab owners, no, we are merely those who enjoy the job, the meeting of people and the telling of stories.

But, it doesn't help our struggle in mainstream life.

Passengers in the main are happy, I feel it is how each driver approaches the customer, this is what makes the trip worthwhile.

Please can we ask Mr Boxall not to assume, there are vaer different and contrasting issues between city and country drivers, as there are from town to town.

Numbers of cabs are a problem in most country areas, and in most cases the Maxi's who do school runs are the only drivers to reap rewards (and I have no trouble with this as I did it and gave it away).

Is there any way commensense may prevail.

While I am happy to see a shake-up, let's look at the reality rather than the belief.

Bob Gailer