

Dear Tribunal Members,

I write to lodge this individual submission as part of your information paper entitled '2009 Review of Taxi Fares' and wish to draw your attention to the negative social impact of the proposal submitted on your request by the NSW Taxi Council.

From the outset, I'm astounded that the proposition of granting yet another fare increase is even being potentially considered given the Taxi Council's lackluster performance, standards and record along with the complaints statistics released in the information paper.

I submit to you that were the Taxi Council actually performing at their optimum level we'd see the business operating costs for the many owners and drivers across NSW reduce in real terms rather than systemically increase as we've seen.

Having said this, the social impact on passengers and in particular the great majority of those passengers with disabilities and/or who are frail aged like myself would be horrendous only serving to further compound and already difficult financial situation and would negatively add to reductions in mobility options and quality of life.

I'd also submit that the argument for yet another fare increase as propositioned by the Taxi Council is clearly not justified on this occasion, given the continuing failure to properly address the lack in service quality and monitoring as evident in the complaints statistics.

Consequently, I submit to you that as the argument made by the Taxi Council is void of any real 'home grown' solutions, it should be declined in the interests of the owners and drivers themselves and most importantly, the passengers who ultimately remain the bread and butter of the NSW Taxi Industry.

I trust that my contribution assists in deliberations and are happy to have this submission published on your website and can appear to provide oral evidence at the appropriate time.

My thanks in advance as I commend the above submission to you.

Yours sincerely,  
**DAVID CUNNINGHAM.**