



1 August 2016

Media Statement

Statement from Taxi Council Queensland CEO Benjamin Wash - Re: RACQ comments

For the past couple of years RACQ has publicly supported uber and the so-called "ridesharing" model, despite the way uber has entered the market bypassing regulations, ignoring government cease and desist orders, disadvantaging over 16,000 small business operators that pay tax and play by the rules, and treating the rule of law with contempt.

The RACQ's support for illegal activity is surprising, and should raise the question of why it is being so vocal and what its agenda really is.

The organisation has publicly supported leaving taxis rank and hail work, which only represents around 35 per cent of taxi work in this state. This means that it either does not understand the way the Queensland taxi industry works, or it has hidden motives.

The RACQ and its interstate affiliates have stated in the past that they would consider starting a rideshare company. It is clear that these organisations want to use their huge combined membership base to start a company that will rival uber and dominate the market, generating massive revenue across their income bases of insurance and road servicing, while establishing an entirely new revenue model.

The RACQ has a clear vested interest and it is wrong to imply it is independent in this debate. We call on the RACQ to finally declare its motives and stop hiding behind the guise of being an observer.

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