



**Letter to the Editor – Sydney Morning Herald
31 December 2014**

Dear Editor

I refer to the recent articles on ridesharing and specifically Uber X, which have appeared in the SMH over the last week.

The articles outline what the future may hold for passengers if ridesharing is made legal. Higher prices, courtesy of surge pricing, and lower standards through limited or no driver and/or vehicle checks, older vehicles, inadequate insurance and no driver training. Recent events both here and overseas have unfortunately highlighted the risk to the public of this form of deregulated taxi service.

Taxi regulations that have served the community well are there to protect the public interest; not the protectionist motives of the industry that Uber and some others would have you believe. This notion implies that Governments of all persuasions over many decades have been complicit in some sort of fanciful conspiracy. This fallacy ignores the significant changes and reforms that both the Government and the taxi industry have separately introduced over many years and the simple fact that there are no statutory limits on the number of taxi businesses that can be established in NSW.

It is instructive that Uber trots out this 'monopoly' chestnut at a time when its own actions have come under public scrutiny for, amongst other matters, its alleged anti-competitive conduct by making thousands of bogus bookings against its competitors.

This important issue is however more than just compliance with the law; it is about sustained customer service to the people of NSW. Recent independent surveys have found that we are on the right track however we are not resting on our laurels. We know that in order to ensure our long term future we must be the customer's taxi service of choice through quality and innovative service. We are committed to this for all of the travelling public in NSW.

Regards,

**Roy Wakelin-King, AM
Chief Executive Officer
NSW Taxi Council**