



**Letter to the Editor – Australian Financial Review
7 October 2014**

Dear Editor,

I refer to the article in yesterday's Australian Financial Review titled *Undercover Stings Don't Faze Uber X*.

The article potentially misleads the reader to believe that the regulations that govern the NSW Taxi Industry provide inappropriate protection for that industry's benefit alone. This is an inaccurate portrayal of the basis for proper consumer protection that is required for public passenger transport services provided by taxis.

Regulations are established and maintained to protect the public interest. Successive governments have recognised that there is a need for the balancing the requirement of the private sector to provide taxi services with the need to ensure that the public receive safe and reliable services. The regulations have been reviewed on numerous occasions and this fundamental principle has been upheld every time.

The fact that Uber X so blatantly ignores these laws and, as the article suggests, revels in the fact that it is doing so in a unilateral way to disrupt the law is emblematic of a much greater challenge that is being presented by this issue. Respect for the law is fundamental to our society and not liking the law just because it doesn't suit your business model is not a valid reason to break it.

RMS is right to take whatever action it needs to in order to uphold the law. Uber X and anyone else (including the person in the article boasting about how much money they are making outside the law) should be condemned for their non-compliance; not celebrated for the fact they are using technology to act outside the law.

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