

NSW TAXI COUNCIL LTD

Ref: 212/2014

RWK:as

26 November 2014

Mr Peer Lindholdt
Editor
Oz Cabbie Magazine
PO Box 549, Edgecliff NSW 2027

COPY

Dear Mr Lindholdt,

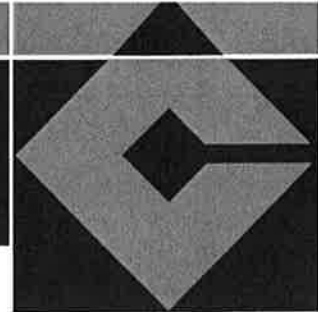
Re: Letter to the Editor

I refer to your article in the Oz Cabbie Magazine dated November 2014 (Issue 9) titled **“War council’s galore as our fight against Uber X intensifies”**.

Whilst there is much in the article that I do not agree with, your advice regarding the meeting on 10th November 2014 is factually incorrect. The meeting on the 10th November 2014 was the Annual General Meeting of the NSW Taxi Industry Association for its members. It was not, as your article suggests, not an exclusive meeting. AGM’s are for the members of associations where key governance issues are dealt with.

Furthermore your article selectively covered the issues raised by the NSW Taxi Council at the meeting regarding the fight against ridesharing. This advice included (but was not limited to):

- Meeting with many members of both State and Federal Parliaments to advocate on behalf of the industry on this issue and asking for the law to be upheld;
- High profile media activity calling on the Government to take action against ridesharing and raising public awareness of the risks associated with this form of illegal transport service;
- Writing to key regulators to ask them to investigate possible breaches against the law including the Privacy Commissioners of NSW and Australia, and the Australian Tax Office;
- Working with the Insurance Council of Australia on this issue;
- Running a strong social media campaign on this issue;
- Establishing a dedicated ridesharing section on our website; and



- Sending flyers to drivers alerting them to the risks of driving for ridesharing providers.

On this last matter there was unanimous agreement that any taxi driver who was driving for Uber was doing both themselves and the industry a significant injustice. The statements I made about this issue were widely reported in the media.

Your article is also disrespectful to the NSW Taxi Driver's Association (TDA) and its President. As the vast majority of attendees acknowledged, it was a successful meeting that was brought about by the hard efforts of the President and Executive of the NSW TDA, and they are to be commended, along with the many attendees, for the unanimity of purpose that was shown at the meeting.

I note your apology contained in your editorial of this edition regarding misquoting me in full the previous edition of OZ Cabbie. This is appreciated however you should have published my letter as I understand journalistic conventions require you to do. I also note that you state you used some "rather careless assumptions" as opposed to misquoting me. Careless assumptions should not be made when discussing critical issues of this nature. For the record I would not support the lowering of training standards and no-destinations is not a policy of the NSW Taxi Council.

Whilst 'careless assumptions' and selective reporting may make for interesting reading, it does little to build confidence in the reporting of these issues, particularly at a critical time such as which the industry faces now. As I stated, in seeking to engage with Oz Cabbie, I am not looking for complimentary remarks about myself nor the NSW Taxi Council; I am looking for the factual and balanced reporting.

Yours sincerely, -

Roy Wakelin-King, AM
Chief Executive Officer