

Responses to Questions on Notice (Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee).

1. Clarification of the collective value of taxi licences (page 2)

\$1,345,658,054. This total figure is for taxi licence values only and does not represent any vehicle or equipment values. Taxi licences are transferred on market regularly and this precise figure is current and accurate as of 27 October 2015.

2. Ms Cerutti: I am not sure if anyone else can answer this, but I am pretty sure—I will check on this—that Uber, the company itself, is not operating illegally. It is when the drivers drive their cars and pick up passengers that it is operating illegally. Can I take that on notice? I can give you some information, because that really comes from our legal people. (page 4)

Legal advice indicates that services provided through the Uber smart phone app are considered taxi services, and as a result are illegal when provided in a private car that does not have a taxi service licence by either a driver or operator without Operator Accreditation (OA).

It is acknowledged that when the existing taxi legislation was developed, an operating model such as Uber was not envisaged. As such, advice to date indicates that it is unclear as to whether or not Uber itself is technically the operator of such services.

3. Mr HART: So have you had any advice, then, to see whether making it illegal under legislation would fix this problem?

Mr Baker: We have not, I do not think. I am not sure—

Mr HART: Can you come back to us about that?

Mr Baker: Yes. (page 4)

Notwithstanding the review recently announced by Government by an independent taskforce into taxi, limousine and rideshare services, the Department is currently investigating options, including possible amendments, within the existing legislative framework to ensure compliance can be carried out effectively.

Mr KNUTH: So how many fines have been issued in the last six months, or in the last month?

Ms Cerutti: I cannot tell you the last six months. I can give you that information. I do not have it with me, so I can give that on notice. (page 5)

171 PINs have been issued totalling \$191,431.00 since April 2015. Of these 126 have been paid or sent to State Penalties Enforcement Register (SPER), 44 are with Prosecutions, and 1 is yet to be finalised. No PINs have been issued in the last month.