



Certainty needed for commercial passenger vehicle industry

A parliamentary committee [report](#) on reforms to Victoria’s commercial passenger vehicle industry has called for the Victorian Government to clarify how the industry will be shaped going forward.

“The Committee believes there is a pressing need for the Victorian Government to clarify whether it sees the commercial passenger vehicle industry being completely shaped by market forces or if it believes government still has a role in ensuring a healthy sector for consumers and drivers alike,” said the Chair of the Legislative Council’s Economy and Infrastructure Committee, Nazih Elasmr.

“Such a clarification will provide industry members with the certainty needed to plan for their future,” Mr Elasmr said.

The Committee reviewed the impact of the *Commercial Passenger Vehicle Industry Act 2017* and *Commercial Passenger Vehicle Industry Amendment (Further Reforms) Act 2017*, which are the latest in a long line of reforms to the industry in Victoria.

The reforms replaced the previous system of issuing a limited number of licences and instead provided for an unlimited number of commercial passenger vehicle registrations. They also brought in changes to fare structures and legalised rideshare services.

According to the Committee, two issues of concern remain for the industry:

- the problem of touting, especially at Melbourne Airport and major events
- the employment conditions for drivers following the sharp increase in commercial passenger vehicle registrations.

“While fares have certainly dropped—temporarily in the case of rideshare services—and the industry has acknowledged the benefits of competition, the *Commercial Passenger Vehicle Industry Act 2017* does not provide any employment safeguards for drivers working in the industry,” Mr Elasmr said.

The Committee noted that the Victorian Government’s current inquiry into the on-demand workforce, which is due to report by the end of 2019, may address this area, particularly for rideshare drivers.

In its report, the Committee has made 13 recommendations that include provision of counselling services to affected stakeholders and reviewing the transitional funding package and how it was structured.

The Committee has also recommended introducing fare pricing indexation, reviewing the disparity in fares and driver incomes to ensure a level playing field, and requiring CCTV cameras to be installed in all commercial passenger vehicles.

The report is available from the Committee's [website](#).

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