



30 June 2009

Hon Cameron Dick MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations
GPO Box 149
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

RE: REFORM OF QUEENSLAND'S TORT LAWS

I refer to our discussion, 6 June 2009, in relation to the escalating cost of Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance for taxi sedans/wagons (i.e. Class 3) in Queensland.

It is the Taxi Council of Queensland's (Taxi Council) view that there is an urgent need for the State Government to revisit the tort law reforms introduced by way of the Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002 (PIPA) and Civil Liabilities Act 2003 (CLA).

At the time of their introduction these reform initiatives proved particularly successful in deterring spurious, inflated and/or fraudulent injury claims on various insurance schemes, including the CTP scheme administered by the Motor Accident Insurance Commission (MAIC). Importantly though, with the passage of time the efficacy of these reforms has seriously diminished.

The Taxi Council would expect a comprehensive tort law review will identify a range of reasons for the erosion in performance of PIPA and the CLA. One such reason would be the failure of the legislation to maintain the "real value" of prescribed monetary limits through reference to an appropriate price inflator (e.g. such as the Consumer Price Index or derivative thereof). This is a clear and obvious deficiency in the legislation as currently drafted.

In the present difficult times associated with the global financial crisis and domestic economic recession Queensland taxi operators are struggling to maintain business viability. The dramatic escalation of insurance costs, and Class 3 CTP premiums in particular, is a major concern that cannot remain unaddressed.

Accordingly, the Taxi Council requests a review of PIPA and the CLA (and subordinate legislation). Your earliest consideration of this request would be most appreciated. Please contact me directly on (07) 3847 3500 if you require any further details.

Yours sincerely

Blair Davies
Chief Executive Officer

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of Queensland
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