

TAXIS — UBER TAX

603. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Can the Premier also confirm that he will be increasing regulated taxi fares for Western Australians, or will taxidrivers suffer a 10 per cent cut to their income?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I do not know what the member is referring to. I think she misunderstands the system that we are bringing in.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Describe it.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I described it just a moment ago.

I want to outline to the house some support that has been expressed for changing the situation that currently exists. I want to quote from *The West Australian* of 15 March, and I will indicate what they had to say, because I think it is very instructive. I quote —

“Mums and dads who borrowed against their mortgages to buy taxi plates from the Government in a regulated industry. Regardless of what you might think about the taxi industry or Uber, it was a regulated industry when they borrowed money. We should apologise for how we treated them.”

That was Joe Francis. I will also indicate what was said in the house on 8 September 2016, and I quote —

I would support a voluntary buyback because not all owners want to sell their plates. I support a voluntary buyback, but none of this can be achieved unless we have a levy to raise the money. As a user of cabs I would be happy to pay that levy.

That was the member for South Perth. On 8 September 2016, it was said in this house —

I thought a levy sounds like a good idea. It is a good way to get some money back into the system and then be able to compensate people appropriately.

That was the member for Carine.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Everyone happy now?