

**From Lee Sims, Secretary, Cab Drivers' Association of Queensland Inc.  
To All Brisbane taxi drivers**

The article below was in the Courier Mail on Monday, December 20.

By that afternoon, Nolan's office called to ask if I could meet with her the next morning (Tuesday) anytime before noon. I met her at 10am. She claimed that she wanted to work with CDAQ but it was another attempt to snow me and to gauge whether we are serious about calling out the taxis. She was worried that a stop work meeting would attract more unsavoury media attention for her. Don't think that the government

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# Frustrated cabbies to stop work

**Tuck Thompson**

CABBIES are being asked to join a stop-work meeting on December 29 to protest against the Queensland Government's failure to take steps to reform the taxi industry.

It's been nearly six months since Workplace Ombudsman Don Brown proposed 60 recommendations to upgrade taxi training, working conditions and service, but they have not been implemented.

Lee Sims, head of the state's taxi drivers' association, has called for cabbies to park – beginning at noon at Victoria Park – as a sign of unity.

Mr Sims walked out of the government's Taxi Industry Advisory Committee meeting last week, frustrated it was all talk and no action.

"It became clear at that meeting that I'd wasted more than a year talking to a brick wall," he said.

Cabbies will be asked to sign a petition asking Premier Anna

Bligh to sack Transport Minister Rachel Nolan for failing to act. Ms Nolan has said through a spokesman she is still studying Mr Brown's proposals.

The government has expressed "support in principle" for some recommendations but has not provided a detailed action plan or implemented changes.

Mr Sims said: "It is obvious Queensland Transport and the Taxi Council are united in a front of doing nothing for their own self-interest."

The stop-work action will be kept brief to avoid inconveniencing passengers.

It was estimated 200-300 cabbies would participate.

Mr Brown's scathing 110-page report on the industry, after months of research, hit out at the Taxi Council and cab companies for lax standards.

The report recommends tighter controls on cab companies, including taking away their right to train drivers, and measures to safeguard drivers.

cannot be made to do what we want. It only takes numbers. It is essential that we show up in force now. If we don't we will look weak and the minister, QT and Taxi Council will feel empowered.

If there are numbers in the park, we will win. It all depends on you.

If you are there you will be proving that I was not wrong about how you feel about Don Brown's recommendations and you will be playing your part in your own future.

We must insist on the adoption of the key elements of the report but it is best to simply say, "We want **all** the recommendations or we want to be told why."

If you are not there you are telling the government that everything is fine by you. Anyone not there will be considered as a vote for:

1. 45% and half fuel standard bailment agreement. Don Brown called for 50% and owner pays 100% of the fuel but QT and the Taxi Council have other ideas.
2. No tribunal for disputes. It will be left with the companies' kangaroo courts. Forget the minister's offer of QCAT. It will take at least 6 to 12 months to be heard.
3. More untrained students coming in. This time from Korea. Despite what the minister says, the training recommendations have been ignored. RTO status will change nothing. The same people will still train and assess their own training. We insist on independent assessment and so does Don Brown.

And much more... Sub-leasing will remain, set-pays still continue, no proper work cover... We can change that. We can send a message that will mean something and all you have to do is be at the rally ... **Victoria Park, Herston, next Wed, at 12 noon.**