Mr Robert Harcourt B.Sc. – Written evidence (AUV0001)

Mr Harcourt is an engineering systems designer (retired).

Addressing questions 2, 5, 10, 11 and 17.

1) Prediction Future deployment of micro-taxi fleets in cities, assuming the availability of low-cost mass-produced autonomous electric taxis within 5-10 years.

2) Planning by local government to meet same.

2A) Increased provision of taxi-ranks with power points. Say 20 mile maximum journey between charging ranks. 2B) Provision of pick-up and set-down bays in the majority of urban streets to avoid waiting on carriageway. 2C) Licensing of local operators

3) Intervention by central government committee to meet same.

3A) Mitigation of impact on local bus operators by de-markation of zones served. Say limit of 10-mile radius from city or urban centre for autonomous taxis. 3B) Mitigation of impact on local taxi operators by limiting the size and payload of micro-taxis. Say maximum two passengers and only hand luggage. 3C) Consideration of impact on privacy when the mobile 'phone that summons the taxi is obviously linked to the source and destination addresses thus recorded at the micro-taxi headquarters.

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