Mr Eion MacDonald – Written evidence (AUV0002)

1. Great saving in care costs for disabled in country districts or towns.

2. Many elderly or disabled persons are moved from their own homes to care facilities (institutionalised) due to inability to seek under their own mobility the usual food/small items of daily life, while they can actually cook. Sit alone in garden, talk to friends etc. With a ‘purpose to life’. Inability to shop, obtain necessities puts them into the ‘care environment’ of care homes or council care which is unrelenting in its degradation of ‘life’ as carer/care home does things to obtain swiftest possible ‘job’ without consideration that independent life could be done by person with slow steps.

An ageing population needs transport to keep independent living as long as possible. Autonomous cars /taxi for hire could restore a large bit of country living and avoid demise of villages and compaction into ‘towns’.

Shopping is the biggest thing, but users of cars cannot keep a country home when no bus service carer once per two days etc., but with an autonomous car without need to control /brake, use legs etc. would allow an extension of individual life at home.

This would reduce care budget and increase quality of life.

3. I have seen a lot of Woman’s Institute members in our district ‘give up desire to live’ due to no independent mobility from home to market. My wife is a WI member.

For the disabled, an autonomous car coupled with wheelchair driver capability would reduce the inability to get to a work site, or other place.

There are benefits, but other road users would need to be trained to spot such cars and take appropriate actions, a sharp overtake and cut in could cause very rapid emergency braking with consequent collision by rear end smash into stopped car. Very difficult to model mathematically, as cut in is a very dangerous procedure but very common.

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