

Ride share drivers targeted in compliance operations

Roads and Maritime Services inspectors will be ramping up enforcement of illegal ride sharing activity through direct and road side operations over the coming weeks.

"Drivers of ride share services such as UberX are breaking the law, it's as simple as that," Roads and Maritime Services Director of Safety and Compliance, Peter Wells said.

"They are not regulated, not authorised and are not subject to ongoing criminal checks like taxi, hire car and bus drivers are.

"It is only a matter of time before an incident occurs and a driver faces the possible denial of insurance cover, leading to substantial financial loss."

Mr Wells said while cases against 24 Uber X drivers have been withdrawn this week due to evidentiary issues, he can assure the community enforcement of illegal ride sharing activity is continuing.

"UberX drivers operate in unmarked cars and have proved time and time again they're willing to work around the law in any way they can," he said.

"We will continue to pursue compliance actions to discourage UberX drivers from breaking the law and will be ramping up our compliance efforts as part of a targeted operation in coming weeks."

Enforcement will be targeted at known hot spots and during random roadside tests. Taxi and private hire car services in NSW must be provided by an operator accredited by Roads and Maritime, in a licensed and insured vehicle which is driven by an authorised driver and subject to regular inspections.

While Uber Pty Ltd does not breach the Passenger Transport Act 1990 by offering the service, drivers transporting passengers for a fare do. Maximum fines are \$11,000 for driving without a driver's authority, and \$110,000 for operating an unaccredited service and for using a vehicle which is not licensed as a public passenger vehicle.

"The NSW Government has established an independent taskforce to look at the future of the taxi, hire car and ride sharing industry, but in the meantime, the community expects us to enforce the law and put safety first," Mr Wells said.