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## Uber

- Uber is a platform for ridesharing services that connect passengers directly with the drivers of vehicles. Cars are reserved by sending a text message or using a smartphone app.
- California was the first jurisdiction to recognise and regulate services such as Uber, creating a new category of regulation for 'transportation network companies' (TNCs). The regulation of TNCs covers driver background checks, driver training, drug and alcohol policies, minimum insurance coverage and company licensing.
- Australian regulators have yet to demonstrate such flexibility and openness to new modes of business.
  - Transport authorities in NSW have declared UberX as non-compliant with the *Passenger Transport Act 1990*.
    - : We understand that the NSW Government is considering its response to ridesharing services, assessing the benefits to consumers alongside the impact on the taxi industry.
  - The Victorian Taxi Service Commission has fined Uber drivers in that State.
    - : Fines of up to \$1,700 per driver have been issued, but Uber has pledged to pay the fines on behalf of its drivers.
  - The South Australian Government has stated that those providing transport services that do not comply with government regulations will face severe financial penalties.
  - Uber is likely illegal under current ACT law. However, the ACT is also conducting a review into its taxi industry, which will seek to identify opportunities for furthering consumer choice, sustainability and long-term competitiveness.

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