

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 533
Petition Sponsored by: Ms Wendy Lovell MP
Directed to: Minister for Public and Active Transport
Tabled on: 6 February 2024

Petition Grievance:

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draw to the attention of the Legislative Council opposition to the proposed removal of Tram Stop No 9 Latrobe/Victoria Street, Melbourne both eastbound and westbound for the following reasons:

1. There are three very substantial residential towers near the corner of Spring and Latrobe Street, being Spring Street Towers, The Focal and The City Gate which are currently serviced by Tram Stop No 9.
2. Many of the residents of these towers are elderly and infirm and place substantial reliance on the proximity of the tram stop to their homes for the purposes of commuting in and around the city. Furthermore the use of public transport by city residents is consistent with State and Local government objectives to minimize private vehicle usage in and around the city.
3. Tram Stop No 9 provides the most direct access to the Carlton Gardens and to the Royal Exhibition Buildings, significant landmarks which attract local residents, commuters, and tourists.
4. The walking times to the proposed replacement stops (8 and 10) have been significantly understated. They are in fact at least 5 to 7 minutes and much longer for the frail, elderly, and those with young children and prams rather than 3 to 4 minutes as stated on the PTV document.

Petition Action:

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to retain tram stop number 9, both eastbound and westbound, on La Trobe/Victoria Street, Melbourne.

Reply:

I acknowledge concerns regarding the proposed removal of tram Stop 9 on La Trobe Street. The Department of Transport & Planning has been canvassing community feedback on the broader project while continuing to fine-tune the design response to best serve tram passengers.

Just last month, follow-up engagement was conducted through community information sessions to ensure opportunities are provided to the local community to provide feedback. This includes considerations for an updated response regarding tram Stop 9.

DTP will consider the input from community engagement to inform future decisions regarding the removal of tram Stop 9. The outcomes of the community engagement will be made available publicly in due course.

I thank the Member for the Northern Victoria Region for bringing this petition and issue to my attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabrielle Williams', is written over the printed name and title.

Gabrielle Williams MP

Minister for Public and Active Transport