

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Expanding Melbourne's Free Tram Zone

Mr Bradley Brown

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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UniLodge is the largest student accommodation supplier in Victoria with over 5000 beds currently under management. We operate 22 buildings across the greater metropolitan city with a mix of both domestic and international students living with us.

International education is a growth sector vital to the future economic prosperity of Victoria and a source of potential future employment for Victorians. It is a priority sector to the Victorian Government and the state's largest service export.

The current free tram zone services the central business district & the docklands however doesn't service the 2 major Universities in the city, RMIT & The University of Melbourne. Our residents would greatly benefit from the extension of the free tram zone to include these Universities as well as other students residing in Melbourne. This makes public transport more accessible to the existing population and would also be of benefit to entice more students, both domestic and international, considering calling Melbourne home. The financial burden of the cost of public transport would be eliminated should the free tram zone be extended and ultimately this would be injected back into the state's economy.

Melbourne has been rated the best student city in Australia and the 3rd in the world in the most recent best student cities ranking. Extending the free tram zone and introducing free travel for students would be advantageous in continuing to ensure Melbourne continues to be ranked in the top.

It was recently announced the Melbourne City Council was looking at reducing speed limits across the city. Lord Mayor Sally Capp stated the council was attempting to slow down traffic, widen footpaths and reprogram traffic lights to prioritise pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. She stated these changes were necessary to accommodate an extra 500,000 people expected to commute through the inner city each day by 2036. By making the transport free for students this would be in line with the council's transport strategy.

UniLodge is supportive of the expansion of the free tram zone and making travel free for all domestic and

international students without restrictions. We see the benefits and opportunities this would deliver for the student community, Melbourne and the wider economy.

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File1: [5de42d5904389-UniLodge free Tram Zone Letter December 2019.pdf](#)

File2:

File3: