

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

Dr. Januka Attanayake

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

While extending free tram zone to Southbank and Parkville has little benefit to a majority of commuters who travel from outside these limits, this new transport plan is especially beneficial to short term visitors and students, which I assume are a significant number, who stay/live in the said city limits. Tourism and education are two major income generating areas in Melbourne, and thus, providing services that promote them is encouraging. Alternatively, the committee may consider abolishing the free tram zone altogether and applying a lower rate across all lines, e.g., \$2/2hr with a flat rate of \$4/day so that regular commuters may pay less than \$100/month. This will increase the number of people riding the trams although proper monitoring is required to ensure that "free-riders" are penalized. An additional option is to offer tourists a time-limited pass at a concessional rate, e.g. \$30/7day unlimited ride-pass. Note that M.S. and PhD students do not get a concession public transport rate. I feel that this is an unfair practice. In either case, the government must ensure a high quality, affordable public transport service. For instance, the trams running on Lygon street (#1 and #6) are jam-packed during rush hours, leaving many commuters behind. While I suspect that other lines experience a similar situation, no resolution is in place. Also, please pay attention to the number of breakdowns reported. A good number of trams are too old to be kept running particularly along routes #1, #6, and #58.

--

File1:

File2:

File3: