

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

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Road transport, according to the WHO, accounts for nearly 17% of total carbon dioxide emissions. As a result, expanded access to reliable, efficient and free public transport will be a key strategy in battling climate change. Reliance on the free-market to establish a fleet of electric private vehicles (which, although superior to their petrol-powered cousins, come with their own environmental concerns) is simply not feasible within the necessary timeframe to mitigate the worst effects of climate collapse. To this end, public transport should be viewed as a public good, making it free at point of service for everyone. Fundamental changes in how we organise the economic and social elements of public infrastructure will be necessary if we are to prevent catastrophic global warming while also ensuring that the working and middle class is not left behind to bare the brunt of the economic burden. This is relevant for the entire country, but free public transport is especially crucial for facilitating access to major economic centres within and around the Melbourne CBD. Needless to say, this includes the city's largest research and academic institution, The University of Melbourne, as well as the surrounding suburbs.

Thank you for coming to my TED talk.

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File1:

File2:

File3: