

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

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[REDACTED]



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am opposed to the free tram zone in its current format and am strongly opposed to the extension of the existing zone for the following reasons:

1. It is almost impossible to use the current system if you want to travel outside the free tram zone to a distant destination. The trams are overcrowded and you simply cannot get on. The next tram is a long wait and by the time it arrives, you may not get on that one either.
2. I pay my fare to travel to the city by train to catch the trams. This is an equity issue as someone driving to the city is able to use the trams for free. If you want to make it less expensive for certain groups, give them discounts. There is no such thing as a free tram as someone has to pay for it. We need good public transport rather than free public transport.
3. People with disabilities are seriously disadvantaged as they cannot get on the crowded trams. Those who are perfectly capable of walking one stop push on, and the disabled are left behind. It is these people who need to catch a tram rather than walk due to disability.
4. Safety is now an issue at tram stops in the free tram zone due to overcrowding. It is not uncommon for people to spill onto the road or be unable to alight due to the crowd.
5. Tram speeds have really slowed since the introduction of the free zone. There is congestion getting on and off. Sometimes I can walk one stop faster than the tram gets there. This is not a desirable outcome for public transport.
6. Discouraging walking leads to poorer health outcomes in the population. We need to encourage people who are able to walk more.

In summary, I would like to see the abolition of the existing free tram zone with no extensions made.

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File1:

File2:

File3:

