

To whom it may concern,

Moonee Valley City Council's Transport Unit welcomes the inquiry into extending Melbourne's Free Tram Zone to also include major attractions such as, Melbourne University, Royal Children's Hospital, The Alfred Hospital, MCG, Olympic Park and National Gallery of Victoria.

Transport Officers are supportive of the initiative to provide more accessible public transport in order to encourage greater use of public transport in Melbourne. However, we believe that the enquiry should not be limited to senior citizens and students, but should also focus on commuters (a great contributor to congestion). Currently, the cost of a 2-hour public transport ticket is \$4.40, as such, for a commuter, that is almost \$10 to travel to and from work, and for some people, it is actually cheaper to travel by car. For those drivers, there is no incentive to utilise public.

The lack of public transport access (in some areas) is another barrier into the utilisation of public transport, therefore, combined with high public transport prices this offers no incentive for those drivers to utilise public transport. As such, in order to tackle the immediate issue of congestion it is imperative that an overall review of public transport pricing is undertaken in order to make this a more attractive option for people.

Once again, Council's Transport Unit would like to congratulate the Victorian Parliament into the inquiry into extending Melbourne's Free Tram Zone.

Kind Regards

Anna Psarras

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