

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

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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As an older person, I frequently use VLine to travel to Melbourne city for family and meetings. This avoids traffic challenges, parking problems and is reliable generally. As a VLine passenger I am entitled to use the tram system but somehow feel guilty when travelling outside the free tram zone without touching on. It is amazing how many people do not touch on outside FTZ. It seems common sense to extend the FTZ as tickets are rarely checked. The service is extremely well used by locals, visitors and tourists.

Seniors Card holders and pensioners generally are having increased pressure on their income from rising prices, rates, insurances etc, but have to cope with miniscule interest rates undermining their income. Offering free tram travel to Seniors alleviates some financial pressure in a small way, discourages car travel and reduces emissions. Full time students (including tertiary) cost their parents dearly, and free travel will encourage our young people to complete their education which is to the benefit of us all. Some students of course are self-supporting, which requires a huge effort to work and study at the same time. Free transport could mean the difference between dinner or not.

I have yet to download Tramtracker, but admire the ability to check the timetable on a mobile phone.

I totally support all these proposals, and feel that they are of benefit to all tram users. Public transport is a public service which must be paid for, but the FTZ extension will hopefully reduce traffic congestion by encouraging people to use the tram for the whole journey, or to park further away from the city area.

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File1:

File2:

File3: