

Good morning

Regarding the Free Tram Zone, I strongly object to any proposed expansion of the Free Tram Zone and suggest this would be an extremely poor outcome for Melbourne and its commuters.

The Free Tram Zone is already poor policy, discouraging public transport use in two key ways. Firstly, it encourages those who could walk to cram onto crowded trams for short trips. Secondly, it encourages people to drive to the edge of the city for cheap parking, such as the \$10 all day parking in Docklands, then make use of the Free Tram Zone to get to their final destination.

Those who catch public transport are the losers of this policy. If you take a train, tram or bus to the city, you have paid for a 2 hourly or daily fare, so can already make unlimited use of CBD trams. Therefore, the Free Tram Zone has created nil benefits for public transport users, and it could be argued a net negative outcome due to the severe overcrowding caused by the policy.

The Free Tram Zone also discourages tourists from leaving the core city centre, as they would otherwise need to purchase a myki card. This could unfairly disadvantage inner and middle suburbs such as Carlton, Richmond and St Kilda; however, expanding the Free Tram Zone to these places is not the solution.

The Free Tram Zone should not be expanded; if anything, it should be abolished.

I kindly request that only my first name and the first initial of my surname is attributed to this submission, and my surname, phone number, suburb and this paragraph are kept confidential. This is due to confidentiality requirements of my current employment.

Kind regards