

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

Dr Jeremy Lawrence

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Streets Alive Yarra supports the FTZ SUBMISSION 52 from Peter Parker. The Melbourne Free Tram Zone should not be expanded, instead it should be abolished. Pricing has an impact upon behaviour, which as an impact upon outcomes, such as the effectiveness of transport networks, population health, and value for money for taxpayers.

The State Government should create an environment where there is a price differential between active transport (walking and cycling), public transport (trams, buses and trains) and motorised transport (cars). Walking and cycling should be free, public transport should have a medium cost, and driving and parking should have a high cost. This pricing structure would encourage walking and cycling, which have population health benefits (i.e. less spending on health for the taxpayer). This pricing structure would also encourage public transport at the expense of driving (which is necessary to avoid impending severe congestion and gridlock).

Public transport should not be free, because this would deliver poor outcomes, such as able bodied people choosing to use the tram for short distances that could be easily walked or cycled. Another poor outcome is heavily overcrowded trams, encouraging some public transport users to switch to driving. Trams should be available for people travelling medium distances, not short walking distances. Trams should also be available for less able bodied people, who would find it much more difficult to walk shorter distances than more able bodied people.

Overall, it would be better for the free tram zone to be abolished, for tram loading/unloading times to reduce, for trams to run more on time, for more tram space to be available for less able bodied people, for more people to walk short distances, for more revenue to be collected from paying tram users, and for the revenue to be reinvested in delivering more and better public transport services.

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File1:

File2:

File3: