

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

Dr Richard Gould  
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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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Re Terms of Reference, Item 1.

When considering extension of free tram services, this is to ask for the related consideration of tram capacity. Trams are badly overcrowded at specific times & defined locations.

Increasing expansion of free trams will increase patronage. Patronage of many services is already overcrowded but the annual tram survey is misleading as it does not reflect the actual overcrowded & uncomfortable experience of tram users. More survey points within the CBD are required to reflect actual patron experience.

I have daily experience of Tram No 57. It is overcrowded during peak hours, and on services from the city after 7pm. Using it at those times reminds me of being a sardine in a tin, minus the oil. An inappropriate number of trams are so crowded that users aren't able to board. Successful boarders experience a very, very uncomfortable experience that leaves them angry at the government for underfunding tram frequency.

Four issues are relevant – quality of service experienced by the tram traveller, safety of travellers, revenue lost by the carrier because of alternate transport use, & impact on the environment from alternative car use.

More No 57 trams are needed after 7pm, when the timetable drops to 3 trams per hour. During peak times, either larger trams, or more trams per hour, are needed.

Research shows that voters support the government's improving of infrastructure. Uncomfortable daily tram usage is a frequent reminder of the success or failure to deliver infrastructure that the public experiences and values – or devalues if bad quality.

Please consider the unhappiness of the public if tram frequencies are not increased. I further suggest that

most voters would prefer more services than more free coverage.

Sincerely,

Dr Richard Gould  
West Melbourne

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File1:

File2:

File3: