

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

Mr Callum Simpson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

I have been a student (as well as a casual staff member) at the University of Melbourne for five years through undergraduate and graduate study. I also held a position in the Student Union for a year, and heard a lot about student's experiences in regards to transport.

I support the idea of extending the free tram zone, although I also feel its benefits will be limited.

Firstly, the corridors between the University campuses and the CBD are heavily policed. Which is a disgrace!

Authorised Officers are targeting poor students who sometimes haven't the money to pay for Myki fees and food, and particularly targeting International students who are under even worse financial pressures and don't always fully grasp the local system. It's a cruel targeting of a vulnerable part of society for the financial gain of the Dept. of Transport. An extension of the Free Tram Zone would help put an end to some of the worst of these practices.

However, these reforms would not be complete without a few extra measures. Enforcement strategies on the tram network should be cut-back for they contribute anxiety and conflict on public transport, and officers should not be made to work to quotas. They are heavily incentivised to show no discretion and to fine as many people as possible. Also, transport concessions should be widened. All graduate students, who often forgo work for their studies, should receive transport concessions, and international students, who pay high up-front prices, should receive free public transport.

I personally believe that the Government should be considering making public transport completely free. Although this will take a significant investment, it will further incentivise use of public transport and reduce congestion and pollution. The entire tram network would be an ideal starting point to making PT free for everyone.

--

File1:

File2:

File3: