

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

Mr Paul Westcott

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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The Free Tram Zone (FTZ) is very poor policy. Far from being extended, it should be scrapped.

There are many reasons why the FTZ should be discontinued, or, at the very least, should not be extended:

- It disadvantages tram passengers who have travelled the whole way to the city by tram and have therefore already paid for their travel in the FTZ.
 - It provides a perverse incentive for people to drive to the FTZ rather than using public transport for the whole of their journey.
 - It discourages people from walking even relatively short distances.
 - It generates significantly increased tram loadings in the busiest section of the system, in a number of cases in the middle of the route.
 - It reduces fare revenue on the busiest section of the system.
 - It reduces the incentive to increase services.
 - It is an unnecessary subsidy to people living within the FTZ
 - The FTZ occupies the part of the tram system where car travel is least competitive, making PT more valuable.
- Therefore, it does not make sense to give away travel in that area for free.

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File1:

File2:

File3: