

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

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Considering extending the free tram zone needs to be considered in a wider context. The current zone still encourages park and ride to come to the innermost parking stations for example, while an expansion shot this segment of the users further out. This is but one aspect.

Some submissions seem to make the assumption that everyone can walk quite long distances. This is simply untrue of many older people, and is an ageist standpoint that needs to be examined more carefully.

Given that we have free zone, the current boundaries are probably too constrained. For example the Melbourne University Parkeville campus is a key destination for many severely income constrained students.. and would really help the many overseas students in particular.

Taking a longer term view, the shift to public transport needs to be encouraged and in this mix capacity is already an issue. No doubt some submissions will complain about that, but I suspect the concerns will be mainly about peak hour... the marginal cost of greater utilisation OUT of peak hour is a benefit of course.

Increasing familiarity with public transport (surprisingly some people don't use it much at all) and the usage of trams outside peak hours is benefit to all. The free tram zone significantly lowers the barriers to such people to trying it, with spill over to train/tram usage a result.

The steady and continuing reductions in road capacity in central melbourne requires a coherent response to maintaining the people movement that is the lifeblood of the city activities, social and commercial, shifts to light vehicles using less road and parking space (bicycles, Ebikes/motorcycles) have some potential, but the tram network has the greatest capacity and widest coverage.

In general I see an expansion of the free zone as a constructive move, but would like to see discussions in greater depth on the overall transport/capacity trade-offs already under way to be certain that it contributes as much as it should.

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File1:

File2:

File3: