

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

Ms Bella Cameron

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

Please do not expand the Free Tram Zone and instead please get rid of the whole concept.

Members should ask themselves who benefits from the Free Tram Zone and if it is incentivising the kind of behaviours we want to encourage in Melbourne.

It makes no sense for travel to be free within the CBD. The majority of public transport users are travelling from and to areas outside of the CBD. Most people will be making more than one trip in and out of the suburbs and so would have reached the fare cap by the time they are taking any additional trips within the CBD. people who are living and commuting within the existing, or expanded, free tram zone should be encouraged to use active transport.

Thus, the free tram zone does not lower the public transport costs from most Melbournians and disincentivises active transport. While it may be appreciated by tourists, they represent potential revenue for our public transport system, which has now been lost. I don't think we seriously think people decide to visit Melbourne based on whether or not there is the free tram zone, and so it is unlikely to have an impact on tourist numbers. However, currently, commuters are overwhelmed on public transport by tourist travelers around areas such as QVM, who are travelling one or two stops.

The free tram zone offers no real benefit to any Victorians and disincentives active transport. Worse, the lost revenue is a significant opportunity cost which could be invested in our public transport system in areas which currently have low use. Incentivising use of public transport purely in the CBD and inner suburbs is not a valuable use of our money.

--

File1:

File2:

File3: