

**PAUL FLETCHER MP**

Federal Member for Bradfield
Minister for Communications,
Urban Infrastructure,
Cities & the Arts

MC21-007921

Cr Laurence Evans OAM
Mayor
City of Bayside
PO Box 27
Sandringham VIC 3191

Dear Mayor

I am writing to you regarding the Australian Government's \$4 million commitment to the Commuter Car Park Upgrade at Hampton, to be delivered by Bayside City Council.

The local Member of Parliament, Mr Tim Wilson, has advised me there may be a misconception among some of your fellow Councillors that, should Council choose to reject the funding provided for this commuter car park, it could be used for other purposes.

Decisions by the Australian Government to commit investment in infrastructure are for specific projects, with a specific scope and within a determined funding allocation. As such, and to provide clarity I wish to advise that the Australian Government's funding allocated to the Commuter Car Park Upgrade project at Hampton can only be used for the development of this commuter car park project. If Council is unable to deliver this project the funding will be retained by the Australian Government.

In assessing future infrastructure proposals to be delivered by Bayside City Council, a range of factors will be considered, including the Australian Government's infrastructure priorities, and Council's ability to deliver on its own stated priorities. I trust Council will consider this issue before taking any decision to cancel this commuter car park. Such a decision could well have the long term consequence of reducing the chance of future applications for Commonwealth funding for the City of Bayside being successful.

The Australian Government commitment to Council to deliver the commuter car park was made on the basis that construction would commence within a reasonable timeframe. Funding will not remain allocated to this project unless Council can demonstrate it is progressing this project as quickly as possible.

I therefore seek your early assurance that Council remains committed to this important project and will advance planning as quickly as possible in order to secure the funding that has been allocated.

Yours sincerely

Paul Fletcher

14 / 9 / 2021