

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

Inquiry into the administration and expenditure of funding under the Urban Congestion Fund (UCF)

I have already made a Submission dated 7 September 2021 to the Inquiry. I provide a Supplementary Submission as follows.

Was there a need for more car parking spaces in Maroondah?

In Submission 3 to this Inquiry, Mr Andrew Fuaux, Director Development & Amenity of the Maroondah City Council states that for some time Maroondah had been seeking funding for car parking . He refers to Maroondah’s Council Plan for 2017-2021 to plan or commence ‘carparking improvements’ for the Ringwood and Croydon Activity Centres. He further refers to plans in 2013 to provide additional parking for the Heathmont Village commercial precinct.

Maroondah has stated that prior to Mr Sukkar’s announcements, it sought funding from the Commonwealth and the State Government for car parking around Activity Centres. I have asked for copies of such requests. The response was that I would have to seek specific documents through FOI.

I accept that there was, and is, a need in Maroondah in some areas for more parking. However, the need is as much or more for shoppers, as it is for commuters. I am not aware of any ratepayers saying that we needed four commuter carparks or for Council proposing commuter carparks, certainly not on this scale, before Mr Sukkar’s announcements.

It is instructive to see how Council’s plans will work in practice in Croydon. The Croydon carpark is being built on Council land, previously used for ground level parking. It was short term parking for two or three hours and used by people shopping in Main Street. I parked in this area two or three times a week. From a Google Map image, I estimate that there were about 200 car spaces in this carpark. Of necessity, commuter parking is all day parking and I anticipate that on a workday the carpark will fill early in the day. Even if shoppers are allowed to park there, there will be no spaces when most people shop. 487 car spaces were announced for the Croydon carpark, but on the basis of my reasoning the net gain to the community will be 287 car spaces. More

significantly, we were already short of parking for shoppers in Croydon and our traders will be prejudiced by a carpark solely for commuters.

Clarification of my Submission of 7 September 2021

In my earlier Submission, I stated that to build the Croydon carpark, 'Maroondah removed approximately 38 trees many of which were mature'. I wish to clarify this by saying that from my own knowledge about 13 were mature trees (one with a diameter of 1.18 meters) and from information provided, I believe there were 38 and 25 were small.

For your consideration.

Stephen Lucas

10 November 2020