



Department of the Environment and Heritage

Mr Quinton Clements
 Inquiry Secretary
 Parliamentary Zone Parking Inquiry
 Joint Standing Committee on the
 National Capital and External Territories
 Parliament House
 CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Clements

I refer to Senator Lightfoot's letter of December 2002 inviting a submission to the Parliamentary Zone Parking Inquiry. The following information is provided for the consideration of the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories.

The Department supports measures to reduce the impact of greenhouse gas emissions. The Committee will however need to consider whether the introduction of pay parking within the Parliamentary Zone would result in increased use of public transport with the associated environmental benefits, noting that the infrastructure within the Parliamentary Zone is significantly different to that in the Canberra town centres.

Issues to take into account include:

- There is limited public transport infrastructure linking Canberra residential suburbs and the Parliamentary Zone: much of Barton is serviced by two infrequent bus links and the existing interchange arrangements suggest that most employees would need to catch a minimum of two buses to get to work and two buses to return home each day;
- A number of Parliamentary Zone employees live outside Canberra. A recent personal travel survey undertaken in the Department indicated that 11% of employees live outside the Canberra metropolitan area. These employees have no alternative means of travelling to work other than by private vehicle;
- Most departments have a wide range of working hours for agencies located in the Parliamentary Zone – often 7am until 6 pm making it difficult to provide suitable public transport over an extended period;
- The lack of shops and other facilities in the Parliamentary Zone means employees bring their cars to travel to Civic, Manuka and Kingston in lunch breaks;



- There is a relatively large number of working parents with children at school and child care who require their vehicle to manage family commitments.

The contact officer on this matter is Mr Keith Fairbrother, Assistant Secretary, People Management Branch (tel 02 6274 1250)

Yours sincerely



D R Anderson
First Assistant Secretary
Strategic Development Division

7 March 2003