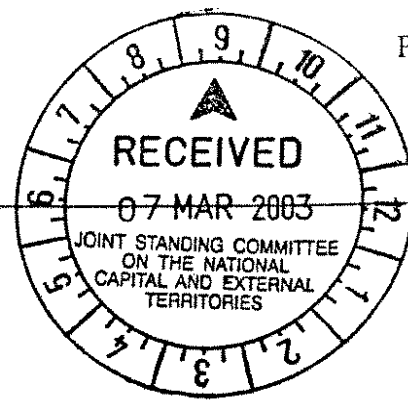


Miletic, Daniel (REPS)

From: Leigh West [leighwest24@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, 7 March 2003 8:46 AM
To: Committee, NCET (REPS)
Subject: Pay Parking inquiry



I wish to make a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into pay parking in the Parliamentary triangle.

I am generally in favour of the concept of paid parking but only when certain circumstances are present - where there are appropriate support services and amenities available in the area (eg retail, medical, post office, banks etc), where there is a viable public transport alternative to driving and when it is implemented equitably. Since the Parliamentary Zone scores poorly on these criteria, I feel that paid parking should not be considered.

I work within the Parliamentary Triangle. Each day I drive from Conder, which is in the southern suburbs. It takes me around 20 minutes to drive. There are no direct bus routes from Conder to Barton. I have two 'bus' alternatives but both would involve travel of around 1 hour 20 minutes twice a day - an extra two hours travelling a day (or 10 extra hours a week or around 500 hours over the course of a year)! One of these alternatives would involve a 20 minute walk to and from Northbourne Avenue. I have great safety concerns about this walk in the evening (noting that it gets dark early during winter). Any findings from your inquiry must seriously address public transport issues to and from the Parliamentary Zone - there should be a significant improvement in bus services BEFORE pay parking is introduced.

Apart from a few restaurants and tourist attractions there are no services available within the area and makes me less inclined to want to pay for parking. The only bank within walking distance (the Commonwealth) closed down over a year ago. We used to have a post office in the area. It closed down quite a few years ago. There are no retail outlets nor any medical facilities. There needs to be a significant improvement in facilities and services for those working in the Zone BEFORE paid parking is introduced.

If pay parking is introduced, it should be introduced equitably. **All** people parking within the Zone should be charged including senior executive service staff of government departments. There should be no move from departments to compensate SES for this charge. Alternatively, where SES are compensated for this charge, below SES staff should similarly be compensated by departments (as it represents an erosion of our salaries). The pay parking requirement should also include **all** above and below ground parking at Parliament House by visitors, staff and advisers and an equivalent deduction from the salaries of politicians (on the basis that they too could catch a bus).

However, if the recommendation is for pay parking to be introduced, the rate should be significantly less than the \$5 to \$7 currently charged in Civic. I note that on the outskirts of Woden (away from the Town Centre, for example opposite Woden Pool) that paid parking is at the rate of \$3.30 per day. A similar rate for the Parliamentary Zone would seem appropriate given the lack of services. At a cost of \$16.50 per week, it would still provide an incentive for many to catch public transport.

Ms Leigh West