



Miletic, Daniel (REPS)

From: Jenny Harper [Jenny.Harper@ea.gov.au]
 Sent: Friday, 7 March 2003 3:07 PM
 To: Committee, NCET (REPS)
 Subject: submission - pay parking enquiry

Dear Committee

As an employee of Environment Australia (John Gorton Building) I would like to express my views regarding proposed pay parking arrangements for the Parliamentary Triangle. I think it completely reasonable that 'users' should pay, but ask that you take into account the lifestyle issues of those already working in the area.

I live in Kambah and have worked in the John Gorton Building for 4 years. Prior to that my branch was based in Belconnen. When I was working in Belconnen I could catch a bus from the Hyperdome at 755 and be at my desk by 830 each morning. Alternatively I could drive to work in approximately 25 minutes. Since my position moved to Parkes I have been faced with the following transport options:

- leave home at 730, catch 2 buses and arrive at work by 830 (cost of 1 bus ticket);
- leave home at 715, ride to Woden, catch bus to work, shower & change & be at my desk by 830 (cost of 1 bus ticket); or
- leave home at 745, drive to work & be at my desk by 810 (cost of petrol plus car wear & tear).

I have used all the above options at various times, depending on my level of organisation, enthusiasm and any after-work errands. I initially found it outrageous that it took me longer to catch a bus from Kambah to Parkes than to Belconnen, but I have adjusted. I hope that you would agree that the driving option is by far the most convenient, but also the most damaging to the environment. For this reason I believe it entirely reasonable that people should pay a token fee for the privilege of parking here. However, many people have very little choice and require their cars because they need to drop off children, or run errands at lunch times (we are 20 minutes walk from the nearest supermarket, unlike workers in Civic), or simply because the lack of suitable bus options is prohibitive.

Other than during peak times it would take me 90 minutes for me to catch a bus to or from work due to connection times, which makes catching the bus on a day when I have a medical or other appointment completely impossible. Staff who live in Jerrabomberra or Queanbeyan do not have access to a reasonable bus system. I am prepared to pay a token amount for the convenience of parking, since I do generally have a choice about whether or not I drive. However, introducing a fee similar to that faced by workers in Civic or Woden would force people like me to spend more time travelling and would strongly disadvantage people with families or other lifestyle considerations that give them no choice.

If pay parking must be introduced, please recognise that we are further removed from the shops & the bus interchanges (where there is more choice about bus times and routes) and that many people do not have a choice about driving. Please consider providing free or reduced cost spaces to staff working in the affected offices (a fee of \$2/day would be comparable with bus fares when petrol & wear & tear are taken into account). Rebates on bus tickets would also be a good approach. There are people who can choose to catch buses but don't because the system is too inconvenient or they can't be bothered. Imposing a parking fee is one way to provide incentive but it penalises those who have no choice, whereas a bus ticket rebate system would provide positive incentives.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Jenny Harper