

From Mr A C Ernst
18 Gordon Drive
TANAWHA Q 4556



21 July 02

The Secretary
Senate Finance & Public Administration
Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

Re: MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (LIFE GOLD PASS) BILL 2002

In general I do not agree with politicians approving benefits or "perks" for themselves that they are not prepared to approve for those that pay them i.e. the public.

Politicians whilst in office are well paid and enjoy numerous benefits and "perks". On leaving they enjoy the benefit of the most lucrative superannuation scheme in the country, and probably as well rejoin the job or business they left when entering parliament.

Politicians after all are employees of the voter but by some strange quirk, the employee not only decides what their employer can have or do but what they themselves can have.

I do not see how politicians can claim they have earned any free travel after leaving the job let alone for life and first class at that. It is just a job like any other and they should wait to qualify, if eligible, for free (or reduced cost) travel like the rest of us.

They may argue that some get perks (air travel for airline ex-employees, reduced cost fuel for ex-oil company employees etc. but they are approved by the shareholders of the companies. Let the politicians get approval for their perks from their shareholders (i.e. the public) and put them to the vote.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A C Ernst".

A C Ernst