

NOVOTEL

ATRIUM  
DARWIN

Darwin  
July 2002.

To whom it may concern -

of their All M.P.'s should be stripped  
lifelong travel perks.

No G.G., or P.M. or  
Politicians plus spouses should be  
using taxpayers millions for Life  
Gold Passes.

There are many pressing  
needs in our communities

What about finance for  
the desperately needed

Tugun By-Pass  
what a disaster - a petrol tanker  
can overturn and Highway 1 comes  
to a standstill for hours.

I urge the Committee  
to eliminate completely travel perks  
for politicians - they earn enough.

14 Foreshore Ct, Sincerely,  
Elanora. 4221. Pamela Long.

# Have say on travel perks

By MERCEDES FLOREZ  
in Sydney

THE Senate has called for public submissions on why some former MPs should be stripped of their lifetime travel perks.

The government last year vowed to publicly disclose travel expense details for former Prime Ministers, Governors-General, MPs and their spouses who hold prized Life Gold Passes.

The Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee last week asked the public for their opinions to be lodged by August 9.

The Life Gold Pass entitles retired MPs with more than 20-years' service to unlimited domestic travel.

Some former Ministers — such as Peter Reith and Michael Woodridge — received the pass based on their service in Cabinet.

Prime Minister John Howard last year promised to cap domestic

travel for future prime ministers — effectively making him the first leader to have domestic travel limited.

"The Government does not believe that the current situation where all former Prime Ministers have unlimited access to domestic travel is consistent with community standards," Mr Howard said.

The new bill will restrict former and future Prime Ministers and their spouses to 40 publicly funded domestic trips per year.

All other Life Gold Pass holders will have domestic flights limited to 25 trips per year.

A report released by the Auditor-General last year stated travel expenditure by former MPs, though not used deceitfully, could be open to abuse.

In 1999-2000 former MPs racked up \$2 million in travel costs — with many retired MPs each spending more than sitting MPs.

More than 140 former MPs are entitled to use the Life Gold Pass.

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