

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Inquiry into the investment of Commonwealth and State funds in public passenger transport infrastructure and services

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a submission to this important and timely inquiry.

I make this submission as an ordinary member of Australian society who is extremely concerned about climate change and both alarmed and dismayed at the present inaction of individuals and government to take decisive action to effect the necessary change to avert the disaster.

I live in the city of Canberra, which has excellent infrastructure for bicycle use, yet when I ride to work most days, I usually have the bike path to myself, whilst a steady stream of motor vehicle traffic passes me by on the roads. Despite the extensive bicycle paths, the often-mild weather, the cost benefit of not using a car, the proven benefits to health and wellbeing, and the satisfaction of reducing one's carbon emissions, this isn't enough to move many people away from their car to the bicycle as a means of transport.

Government should provide incentives to use the bicycle in preference to the car. Another way of looking at this is that the cost of pollution from cars should not be free as it is imposing a cost on the environment. There should be a benefit to the individual for polluting less. The incentives by government should extend to public transport and walking, for the same reasons.

In conclusion, I believe that the time for government inaction on these issues has passed – that government must use all means available to it to reduce the amount of carbon pollution our country emits. I hope you take my sentiments into consideration when conducting your inquiry.

Kind regards

Matthew Frawley
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