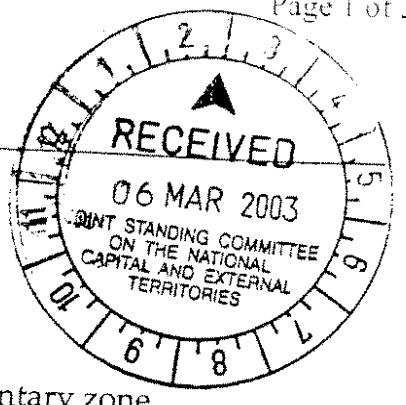


**Miletic, Daniel (REPS)**

**From:** Graham, Kathryn [Kathryn.Graham@ags.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 6 March 2003 2:38 PM  
**To:** Committee, NCET (REPS)  
**Subject:** submission to car park inquiry



To the Parlimantary inquiry into free carparking in the parliamentary zone.

As someone who is a daily user of the free car parking in the Parliamentary zone, I wanted to make a few comments for your consideration.

1. The NCA report talks about the need to encourage greater use of public transport by people working in the Zone and that this is one of the reasons for reducing parking and making people pay for it. In response to this, it is important to note that public transport into the Parliamentary Zone from surrounding areas is, to put it mildly, appallingly inadequate. I live in Narrabundah. It takes me approximately 5 minutes to drive to work. The journey by bus takes approximately forty minutes. I regard that extra hour a day as time better spent either in my office or spending time with friends or family or looking after my health by doing some exercise.

Moreover, like may people who work in the Parliamentary zone I often work late into the night. Buses are simply not an option at that time of night, because (a), they run so infrequnetly and (b) I would have a 15 minute walk in the dark to the bus stop. If I was forced to leave at a time which was convenient for the purposes of public transport, I would probably have to leave work before 6 every evening, which at times is simply impossible.

In summary, unilt the public transport in Canberra is improved considerably, it is simply not fair to insist that people use it, and it seems to me that it would be punishing those who have to work in the Parliamentary zone to effectively force them to rely on this inadequate system. If we are to pay for parking in the zone, then funds should be allocated by the Commonwealth to the ACT government to ensure that those who will be forced into using public transport are provided with an adequate system.

(It is important to realise that, by contrast, the buses into Civic are far more frequent and fast)

2. I note that the NCA report refers to visitors thinking that the Parliamentary zone looks like a car park. Well, I think it is important to remember that this is not just a tourist destination. Large numbers of people work here, and it is a working environment, not just a place full of beautiful empty buildings. If it offends visitors to discover that lots of people actually work to keep the government running, then I think that is their problem!

In any case, if this is a problem why not grow more trees and hedges around the car parks?

3. A comparison with Civic is not valid. For a start, as pointed out above, the buses into Civic are far more frequent and effective so it is more feasible for workers there to use public transport. Second, people who park and work in Civic have access to a whole range of services and retail outlets that are unavailable in the zone. To pay bills, shop, go to a bank, a doctor, a post office, a hairdresser etc, we must drive somewhere else and park (and pay) there.

If we were forced to rely on public transport only, it would be impossible to carry out these essential business hours tasks during our lunch hour as it would be impossible to get to Civic, Kingston or Manuka and back on the bus as well as having time to do chores when we get there. We would effectively be stranded in a beautiful location but unable to do many of the transactions required in daily life.

For these reasons I would suggest that more consideration is given before imposing pay parking in the Parliamentary Zone. At the very least, it is important to ensure that reasonable alternatives (ie a decent public transport system) is available to those thousands of us who spend our days here.

thanks for the opportunity to make comments

Kathryn Graham

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