

Miletic, Daniel (REPS)

From: Douglas.McCloskey@affa.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 17 February 2003 11:57 AM
To: Committee, NCET (REPS)
Subject: PAY parking in Parliamentary zone

Importance: High

To:
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

I wish to make a submission to the inquiry into pay parking in the parliamentary zone. The provision of free parking within the parliamentary zone is necessary within the circumstances which prevail. Canberra is acknowledged to be one of the most car dependant cities in the world, and as such has few viable, efficient and effective alternatives to private car usage. Under these circumstances the removal of a free parking, due to capacity being exceeded, is not a viable or fair solution. The dependence upon private motor vehicles will ensure that usage is maintained, ensuring only that users are penalised financially for usage that has no viable alternatives.

The provision of effective medium or large scale public transport between population and commercial centres would provide alternatives to car usage, and justify the institution of charges related to car usage. The high concentration of government and commercial employees in the parliamentary zone would make it a viable centre for light rail or equivalent efficient public transport from major population centres. Until such time as alternative options such as these are presented, the institution of charges for parking would be simply a revenue measure, and not a long term plan for congestion alleviation.

In addition, the new construction of further departmental and commercial office buildings should be altered to address the current and future needs of the large and concentrated work force in the parliamentary zone. Buildings currently located in the parliamentary zone, in addition to those currently under construction, have parking facilities that are grossly inadequate for the needs of the tenant employees. Insufficient requirements for parking within current buildings has directly contributed to the congestion problems that are currently being experienced in relation to parking. Again, in the absence of viable, efficient alternatives private car usage is necessary, a factor which should be taken into account in planning requirements for parking in buildings within the parliamentary zone.

I would like to restate clearly that I believe the proposal to institute pay parking within the parliamentary zone is not a measure likely to reduce parking usage in light of prevailing transport conditions within Canberra. As such it can only be seen as a revenue grab, particularly in light of the absence of alternatives, and the past failings of forward planning to avert current parking congestion.

Thank you for your consideration

Yours sincerely

Douglas Andrew McCloskey

