

I would like to register my support for an extended and integrated system of public transport and pedestrian/cycle traffic.

Specifically, I would like the committee to consider closing the centre of the CBD, the waterfront and Salamanca to public car traffic and extending the City Hopper service or similar free transport system to connect those areas.

Hobart is a great city to live in, but I feel that it could be made so much more pleasant and attractive if the centre was made more people- and bike-friendly and less car-centric. Perth is a good example of a city with a large public space in the CBD served by free buses. It's much more pleasant to walk around in than Hobart.

A few years ago I commuted daily into the Hobart CBD by bike, but now that I have a toddler I'm unwilling to cycle on the roads because it's too dangerous. Now we use the bus to commute. From the bus we walk about 10min through town to child care and my workplace. I don't wish to restrain my toddler in a pram because he needs a lot of exercise, so I let him walk or run, but I have to be very vigilant that he doesn't run onto the busy roads.

Excluding cars from the CBD would allow space for bike lanes on all the roads (e.g. in place of parking) and connection to incoming bike lanes from the suburbs. It would also provide a much safer environment for kids to ride, skate or blade around town and to the waterfront. Coupled with a better public transport system to the suburbs, and bike racks mounted on buses, people would be more inclined to leave their cars at home. The additional space could also be used to green up the city with trees and develop some large green spaces along the waterfront (or other public uses). I support a lot of the ideas proposed in the Gehl Report.

In addition to safety and aesthetics, our society needs to move towards a less car-centric lifestyle for the sake of our health and the health of the planet. I'm well-aware of the myriad of issues and attitudes that would need to be overcome before such a scheme could be fully implemented. However, I believe that now is an opportune time to begin making big changes to our city and lifestyles because we are a very wealthy nation (despite what the media would have us believe) and there is a strong ground-swell of support for climate-friendly action and healthy living in the community.

Kind regards,
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