



## Extension of Melbourne’s Free Tram Zone recommended

In a [report](#) presented to Parliament today, the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee has recommended extending Melbourne’s Free Tram Zone to help boost tourism.

The proposed extension would include Melbourne’s Arts Precinct and the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

“These small extensions would benefit Melbourne’s visitor economy and help promote Melbourne as an attractive destination,” said Committee Chair Enver Erdogan.

“As we look to recover from the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic, every competitive advantage will help draw people from interstate and overseas,” Mr Erdogan said.

The Committee has made 11 recommendations in its report that also looks at broader public transport issues, including that the Victorian Government undertake modelling on the impact of COVID-19 on public transport usage in Victoria.

According to the Committee, free tram travel for events is another way in which Melbourne can promote itself as a vibrant city, while also encouraging the use of public transport. It has recommended that the Victorian Government establish an application scheme and criteria for public event organisers to apply for free tram travel along a designated route for the duration of an event.

To assist regional Victorians who need specialist treatment in Melbourne hospitals, the Committee has recommended expanding the public transport reimbursement provisions in the Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme. This would include public transport travel between medical appointments and patients’ and carers’ accommodation in Melbourne during the course of a patient’s medical treatment.

The Committee also considered public transport pricing and has recommended that the Early Bird travel scheme be extended to include metropolitan tram and bus services. This may encourage more public transport users to travel before the morning peak.

It has also called on the Victorian Government to undertake an assessment of the merits of transport network pricing and publish its findings, including its impact on rural and regional Victorians.

“Dynamic pricing and modern technologies such as intelligent transport systems are other fascinating areas where the pace of technological advancement affects the public’s expectations around what public transport should deliver,” Mr Erdogan said.

“The Committee learnt about ways in which the Department of Transport currently applies technology across the network and believes it is imperative for the Department to stay committed to using technology to drive constant improvement.”

The inquiry received 405 submissions and held three public hearings. The evidence came from a wide range of people, including tertiary students, transport experts and those running the public transport system in Melbourne.

The report is available from the Committee’s [website](#).

### **Media queries**

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