



Ms Katy Gallagher MLA
Chief Minister
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020, Canberra, ACT 2601
gallagher@act.gov.au

Parking Issues in Inner South Canberra

I am writing to you on behalf of the residents of Canberra's Inner South concerning parking.

Conscious of the growing pressures of all-day parking in the Inner South, despite the helpful actions taken by your Government in response to our earlier requests, we see a much greater challenge emerging as a result of the Federal Government's decision to impose parking fees in the Parliamentary Zone. In essence, we seek the Government's commitment to additional funding in 2014-15 for more parking enforcement resources in the areas adjacent to this precinct. Essentially, this will mean employing more parking inspectors.

We are supportive of the Government's overall Transport for Canberra policies but see them taking some time to come to fruition and gain public support. To meet the immediate challenge posed by the introduction of paid parking we are aware of your Government's program of public information and upgraded bus services, which will encourage some commuters to change their mode of travel. Many however will keep away from paid parking areas and park in Inner South streets, adding to parking congestion, raising safety, overcrowding and environmental problems. Our concerns over current congestion at schools, and childcare, health and community facilities, are well known to your officers and we see these problems being exacerbated.

We are also aware that Roads ACT is considering measures to further restrict long-stay parking in some adjacent streets, including appropriate parking signage. We welcome this action but it will also result in the need for more effective enforcement.

In addition we understand that the ACT proposes to buttress these measures by asking Federal Departmental Secretaries to prevail on their staff to not park in no-parking areas. While this measure will be of some assistance, we will still in the Inner South be inundated with Federal employees' cars, even if these are parked entirely legally. Also, the more determined of our colleagues in the Federal public service are unlikely to be deterred in this way. More concrete and effective action is required to protect our ratepayers.



For the above reasons we seek your commitment to additional parking enforcement resources in the new financial year to support a controlled adjustment to this changed situation. We accept that the introduction of paid parking adjacent to the Parliamentary Zone is a policy imperative for the Federal Government but it will not be effective without the commitment of additional resources to enforce ACT parking restrictions and to reduce pressure on the amenities of local residents as commuters move further afield to find free parking.

While recognising the constraints of current budgetary environments we note that funding for additional parking inspectors would generate revenue sufficient to cover their costs. Additional parking inspectors would only need to book a couple of infringements per day for the program to be cash positive, and it appears the most expensive element would be erecting the necessary parking (and no parking) signs.

We ask you and your government colleagues to consider the negative impact of failure to manage the challenging flow-on effects of paid parking in the Parliamentary Zone. The introduction of policies that the Government finds itself unable to enforce would be a nugatory action and result in significant public criticism.

Yours sincerely

[Signed]

Gary Kent
President
Inner South Canberra Community Council

29 March 2014

cc Treasurer
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services
Molonglo MLAs
Ms Gai Brodtmann MP