

2 December 2016

Parking Space Levy Review
Transport for NSW
18 Lee Street
Chippendale NSW 2008
parkingspacelevyreview@transport.nsw.gov.au

Review of the NSW Parking Space Levy (PSL)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in relation to the above review on behalf of the Committee for Sydney. The Committee for Sydney has long been a champion of demand management mechanisms to manage and reduce car dependency in our Cities. We believe that the PSL has proven to be an effective tool in discouraging private vehicles in Sydney's main urban centres and has supported much needed public transport infrastructure. In doing so, it has promoted efficient operation of our CBDs for a variety of users. For this reasons the Committee supports the retention of the PSL and would support its expansion over time to other town centres and incremental increases in the amount levied per parking space.

However, we are concerned at some unforeseen and unintended consequences of the PSL which Government should consider addressing as part of this review. In particular the impact the PSL has had on the growth of Carsharing in Sydney. Carshare programmes have a played a significant and increasing role in reducing car use, especially in congested urban centres. While Carshare was not available when the PSL was first introduced it is now widespread. In fact, Sydneysiders have the highest take up of carshare schemes than any other City in the world. A carshare vehicle, replaces multiple private vehicles and is used by upwards of thirty different people. It offers employees, residents and visitors to our CBD's access to a car when they most need one, without having to add to our busy roads by driving a personal vehicle into the city during peak hour. Like the PSL, carshare plays a significant role in demand management, providing an alternative to the private vehicle, reducing congestion and increasing mobility. You can read more on the role of carshare in our policy paper "Carsharing in Sydney" (attached).

Applying the parking levy to a carshare vehicle has the paradoxical effect of discouraging the kind of vehicle use that directly reduces congestion while increasing the viability of Public Transport. For this reason, we believe that the parking levy should not be applied to parking spaces dedicated to carshare vehicles only. Removing the PSL on the Carshare vehicles will help drive their expansion and help

reduce congestion. Most other jurisdictions in Australia currently exempt carshare from the PSL.

Furthermore the Committee believes there is scope for the Department of Transport to support carsharing by dedicating more parking spaces in the new commuter car parking stations currently being funded by the PSL. Car sharing is currently unviable in many parts of Sydney. However with support from Government, these marginal economics can be changed, especially in the outer metropolitan areas.

We look forward to the favourable consideration of our submission.

Yours sincerely

Tim Williams,
CEO – Committee for Sydney