



Divide over paid parking plan

THE State Government's recent announcement to charge for parking at Perth's train stations has angered many commuters.

However, some are seeing it as a positive step towards a greener Perth.

Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute senior research fellow Jemma Green said she supported charging for parking, giving an incentive for a move away from carparks surrounding train stations, as long as sufficient bus services were provided.

"I think we need to get away from the model of building ever more carparks, we need to move to provide more

rapid and frequent bus services," she said. "Building carparks is a really inefficient use of prime land at train stations because you get a lot of foot traffic there; it's an optimal place to put retail and commercial offerings."

Ms Green said when compared to the cost of driving into the city, \$2 a day was quite affordable.

"At the moment, they're proposing to charge \$2 a day, which is a small amount of money when compared with the \$3 or \$4 an hour you have to pay when parking in the city and then you factor into that money people have to spend on petrol to drive."

Bayswater resident and retired engineer Nick Suess said he was angered by the decision and argued people who were not fortunate enough to have parking bays in the city would be forced to find more money to get to work.

"We've got transport chaos here, we've got trains that are overfilled, we've got people coming from all over the place to get on the train here and there aren't enough feeder buses to bring people here so they drive," he said.

Mr Suess said charging people to park would not stop people from driving, it would just force them to park on the surrounding streets.