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Division over paid parking

Tom Rabe

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 car parks 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 car parks, we need to move to providing more rapid and frequent bus services," she said. "Building car parks 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, two dollars a day was quite affordable.

"At the moment, they're

proposing to charge two dollars a day, which is a small amount of money when compared with the three or four dollars an hour you'll have to pay when parking in the city and then when you factor into that the 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 should 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 surrounding streets.

"My street and any within 500 metres of the train station are already a car park, and the local residents have to put up with that," he said

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