



Parking fees anger commuters

Tom Rabe

THE State Government's recent announcement to charge for parking at Perth's train stations has angered many commuters, though some are seeing it as a positive step towards a greener Perth.

Senior Research Fellow at Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute Jemma Green said she supported charging for parking, 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 really 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 against 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".

Retired engineer Nick Sues said he's angered by the decision and argued people who weren't fortunate enough to have parking bays in the city were not the ones

who should be forced to find more money to get to work.

North Metropolitan Region MLA and Opposition transport spokesman Ken Travers said Perth's commuters had been let down by the State Government's decision to charge for parking.

"Hard-working commuters who wish to do the right thing by using public transport will be charged around \$460 per year extra in parking fees at train stations, that is if they can find a place to park," Mr Travers said.

"It's bad news for public transport commuters who will suffer huge blowouts to household budgets."

your say

DO YOU AGREE WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE PAID PARKING AT PERTH TRAIN STATIONS?

DAVID THORNBURY

No, I think if you are going to use public transport, parking should be free. They are trying to get people to use public transport so they should make it affordable.



KELLSIE MCKENNA

I think they should put it on with the train fare, rather than a separate fare because it's a bit hard for people to find gold coins just lying around the house.



JENNIFER OLIVER

No I don't think it's fair at all. If you are paying for your fare you shouldn't have to pay for parking, too.



RUTH IRELAND

I think they should be careful not to make it just as expensive and just as difficult as parking in the city.

