



Cr Donna Davis
Lord Mayor

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4 September 2022

Hon David Elliott MP
Minister for Roads
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister *David*

Review of the Mobility Parking Scheme (Permits) for NSW

I seek your assistance in requesting a review of the Mobility Parking Scheme (Permits) for NSW to help provide a fairer and more equitable permit scheme that ensures both the availability of parking spaces for approved permit holders, as well as supporting local Councils in effectively managing parking and traffic management plans.

The current scheme allows MPS holders that display a valid MPS permit in their vehicles, to park all-day in those zones marked as one-hour parking, or more. Whilst this allowance seems to support MPS holders, Council is of the opinion that the condition is problematic and creates access issues for valid permit holders. This means that short-term parking is invariably not available to them – and indeed non permit holders – as these spaces are being occupied all day by vehicles displaying a MPS permit.

Valid MPS holders who wish to park for short periods of time to attend an appointment, are not able to find available parking in the CBD, as commonly these spaces are taken up all day by permit holders who appear to be parking in those locations to attend their places of employment.

Whilst Council rightly needs to support permit holders and ensure access to the city, this practice makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to provide available one-hour parking to all road users and visitors to the city. Furthermore, this practice significantly hinders economic development as Council cannot ensure turn-over and manage our parking spaces effectively. Council is of the view that the lack of ability to effectively manage available one-hour parking has an adverse effect, particularly on small businesses.

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Council recently recorded numbers of vehicles that were present with a valid MPS permit daily, in 18 streets in the Parramatta CBD during a two-week window. These streets had a mix of 30-minute parking and one-hour parking. The number of permits seen in 30-minute parking areas were negligible, however the number of permits seen in the one-hour parking equated to nearly 1800 permits.

Council's recent review of permits clearly indicates that up to 100 vehicles per day are parked within a one-hour zone in the Parramatta CBD and these vehicles are able (and likely) to park all day. This strongly suggests a lack of balance in meeting the needs of MPS permit holders and the needs of the community in providing available parking in our city.

I should note that Council has anecdotal evidence that there is significant misuse of the scheme with able bodied drivers apparently having access to a permit and that this underpins the large numbers of MPS marked vehicles long stay parking in the Parramatta CBD.

Council would like a review of the NSW Mobility Parking Scheme to ensure:


- it meets the needs of users finding accessible parking to manage their day-to-day needs, and
- it meets the needs of Councils who are expected to manage available parking in the CBD's for their visitors, residents, and businesses alike.

Council recognises that the Australian Disability Parking Scheme has established nationally consistent eligibility criteria and national minimum parking concessions to help reduce the barriers for permit holders when travelling interstate. However, State and Territory Governments are responsible for the management of the ADPS and therefore concessions can vary from state to state. For example, Tasmania and Victoria both have conditions that simply double the available time for the user i.e., allowing two hours in a one-hour zone.

On this basis, Council requests that a formal review should include a comparison of the parking concessions for the MPS for each state. This should seek comprehensive feedback from major metropolitan Councils within each state/scheme to determine the effectiveness, limitations and issues in managing parking availability in relation to the relevant exemptions. This will assist in determining the effectiveness of the scheme in NSW and identify potential changes needed which will ensure a fair but effective scheme for both users and non-users.

I would appreciate your consideration of this important issue and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Cr Donna Davis
Lord Mayor
City of Parramatta Council