

Media Release 10-9-08

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## **No Disadvantage. We need a regular bus before parking fees.**

Without adequate alternatives it is likely that the outcome of charging fees for people to park at railway stations is that they will simply drive to their destinations and park there instead of catching public transport. Parking fees will discourage the use of the train and this is bad urban planning policy for Western Sydney.

A parking fee will also impact hardest on the less mobile people and families struggling to meet the increased costs of fuel and mortgage payments. It is likely that the people least able to pay, people using parking at Seven Hills, St Marys, Wentworthville, Werrington, Cabramatta, Revesby, Warwick Farm, Campbelltown, Glenfield and Blacktown will be effected the most by these proposed parking fees. People closer the city, who have better access to public transport, will be less effected.

People in Western Sydney travel larger distances for everyday living. Things like going to work, dropping off children at schools and child care centres and doing shopping will become harder and more unaffordable if parking fees are charged and adequate alternatives are not provided.

From a public policy perspective there is merit to the idea of charging for parking at railway stations as a measure to encourage people to use the bus system, to reduce car usage and all the negative effects of increased car usage – air pollution, road congestion and car accident deaths and injuries.

If a parking fees are imposed, Western Sydney Community Forum calls for a 'no disadvantage' test for commuters using the parking at rail stations – it must be as easy to catch the bus as it is to drive the car. If Western Sydney commuters are to have 'no disadvantage' by transferring to the bus from their cars the Government would need to increase the investment in the bus system before any parking fees are charged.

Any revenues raised for parking at railway stations in Western Sydney must be reinvested specifically into the bus service system and secure bicycle parking

so that commuters can get to the station quickly and reliably. Western Sydney Community Forum believes it is wrong to simply use parking fees as a means of raising Government revenues to be used for other purposes.

The frequency of bus services, the connectivity with the rail timetable and the integration of the ticketing system are critical areas which need improvement

Western Sydney is an economic engine room, producing 30% of Australia's GDP. It is important to support this activity.

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