

Submission in relation to Draft Changes to Planning Rules for Outdoor Advertising in SEP64

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. This is a personal submission. I request that my identity be withheld from publication of this submission.

I have a number of key points that I think need be made. My overall position is in support of the draft changes. However I believe the draft changes do not go far enough, as amending SEP64 provides the opportunity to embrace additional aspects of concern with trailer parking that currently adversely impact Government's overall strategy to increase utilisation of public transport. The additional changes required relate to banning long-term trailer parking in street locations, especially in proximity of railway stations and shopping precincts.

The most important consideration in any rules changes is to address safety issues and this is acknowledged in the rationale for the proposed rule changes. Clearly advertising signage of all types adjacent to roadways and in the line of sight of drivers has the capacity to distract driver attention. The proposed rules rightly empower exercise of limitation on advertising and fines if ignored.

The long term parking of commercial trailers has the same implications and is particularly dangerous in suburban streets where large trailers limit visibility and passage for through traffic in narrow and increasingly busy streets, and make entry and exit for residents precarious. This is doubly so where large trucks are employed with great frequency to remove vast quantities of soil from nearby development sites.

The increase in population density in many traditional suburbs has put pressure on traffic density. Government's strategy to increase the use of public transport and particularly rail networks relies in part on there being sufficient street parking within reach of railway stations. I am aware of at least one situation where 6 valuable parking sites for commuters close to a railway station are blocked by long-term trailer parking by a single owner who is not even a resident of the street. Some of these trailers have been in situ for up to a year without being moved. Council claims that it is powerless under the current rules to move these trailers on.

Government needs to address this issue and extend the rule changes to enable Councils to manage parking restrictions to the benefit of commuters and the amenity of residents.