

**Submission
No 50**

COMMUTER CAR PARKING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation:

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Position:

Date Received: 3 August 2017

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

SUBMISSION ON COMMUTER CAR PARKING

Commuter car parking is a major issue of concern in the Ku-ring-gai Electorate.

Constructed and opened in Gordon in 2015 was a multi-level car park and bus interchange, which complements previously built multi-storey car parks. The Government also purchased and upgraded one-half of the car park at Killara in 2015 and the Planning Department subsequently refused a rezoning application by Ku-ring-gai Council, which has prevented the Council from selling the other half for high-rise development.

However, there are only limited commuter car parking spaces and they are predominantly on the surrounding streets of the Normanhurst, Waitara, Warrawee, Wahroonga, Turramurra and Pymble railway stations.

According to the April 2015 Australian Infrastructure Audit of April 2015 by Infrastructure Australia, the journey from Ku-ring-gai to the city is the most heavily patronised rail journey in NSW and probably Australia.ⁱ

Train accessibility for my constituents is therefore a very significant matter and such accessibility is facilitated by both the availability of commuter parking and the reliability and incidence of bus travel to transport hubs.

I receive consistent feedback from my constituents that buses are too irregular and take too long for them to be a viable way to travel to train stations. Point to point transport or on demand buses would be a considerable improvement to the current situation.

The solution to parking at railway stations is difficult in my area with high land costs and limited available land close to railway stations. While it is desirable that the State government is continuing to develop, with council, commuter parking in town centre upgrades at Turramurra and Lindfield, I believe that more innovative solutions need to be examined.

Constituents complain that the free commuter car parking at Gordon and Killara is being used by local workers, tradespeople working on building sites or even apartment owners that live near railway stations.

A system of Opal Card or other access for only Ku-ring-gai resident commuters to the existing parking stations at Gordon and Killara would be desirable.

Greater co-ordination in areas like mine, between the state and local government, to put in place local parking restrictions, so that only local residents, or even local resident commuters, can park on the streets near railway stations (at the very least on Monday-Friday) may be desirable. That could address concerns that people from areas with good public transport options, like the Central Coast, are driving to Ku-ring-gai to park near stations in order to avoid city parking rates.

Alister Henskens SC MP
Member for Ku-ring-gai

ⁱ Notwithstanding that the approximately 36 minute trip from Ku-ring-gai to the city is much shorter than the approximately 1 hour trip from Cronulla to the city, the passenger hours travelled per day are almost the same: see volume 1 of the report, table 15 page 86