



Hon Cameron Dick MP
Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning
PO Box 15009
CITY EAST QLD 4002

15 July 2020

Getting back to business – Incentivising public transport use to revitalise our CBDs

Dear Treasurer,

We write to you with a joint industry proposal for the government to subsidise free public transport to and from CBDs to encourage people to return to work and support businesses in our city centres.

Central business districts remain the beating heart of our economy with both small and large businesses reliant on the significant amount of foot traffic that CBDs produce to sustain their business. Due to the extensive and varied array of businesses that they support, revitalising our CBDs needs to be a key step in the economic rebuild.

We believe there is a significant opportunity for the government to instigate a ‘Get back to business’ month in August to encourage workers to use public transport and return to the CBD.

The minimum monthly cost for an adult CBD worker travelling to and from work at peak hour each day is \$134. For most households this is a significant cost and can be prohibitive at a time when many workers are still hesitant to use public transport.

By subsidising free public transport for a month, the government will not only encourage workers to return to the CBD but will provide commuters with additional income that could be spent to support Queensland businesses and the economy.

Furthermore, a ‘Get back to business’ month would provide a confidence boost to workers and business by sending a message that Queensland is COVID-safe and ready to return to business as usual.

Currently, the low use of public transport means that it is not generating the usual amount of revenue for government. As such, subsidising public transport would not be as costly to implement as it normally would be. An added benefit may even see workers enjoy the experience and increase their use of public transport throughout the rest of the year.

As part of a “Get back to business’ month we believe that the government should:

- Subsidise free public transport between 6am-9am and 4pm-7pm on weekdays.
- Encourage workers to spend the money saved on public transport near their place of work.
- Encourage employers to be flexible by allowing staggered work hours to maintain social distancing requirements.

If you require any further information or would like to discuss these further, please contact Chris Mountford on 0408 469 734 or at cmountford@propertycouncil.com.au.

Yours sincerely



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