

Item 13.3**Notices of Motion****Making Public Transport Free in Our City**

By Councillor Thompson

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) in Australia, the impacts from the United States of America and Israel's war on Iran have spread throughout the economy, driving inflation, fuel price spikes and commercial shortages in petrol stations – particularly in the regions; and
- (ii) average Australian households are now spending almost \$447 a week on transport, with 96.4% of this cost stemming from cost associated with private vehicle use, particularly fuel;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) in response to this crisis, Greens MP for Balmain, Kobi Shetty, recently tabled a motion in NSW Parliament calling on the NSW Labor Government to make public transport free during the fuel crisis to help address cost of living and free up fuel reserves for regional communities;
- (ii) this follows the State Governments of Victoria and Tasmania announcing free public transport use for a period of between one and 3 months;
- (iii) in late 2024, the Queensland Government introduced \$0.50 fares for all public transport. In the first 12 months of this initiative, commuters saved \$423 million dollars while patronage of the public transport network increased by 18.3%; and
- (iv) despite the impacts of the fuel and cost-of-living crisis, and the success of these initiatives in neighbouring states, the NSW Premier Chris Minns has consistently ruled out adopting these simple measures in NSW; and

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Premier of NSW, Chris Minns, NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey, and NSW Minister for Transport John Graham to request an urgent change of course and the implementation of free public transport, in line with the measures undertaken in neighbouring states.

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