



Australia's property industry

Creating for Generations

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5 May 2020

The Hon Dominic Perrottet MP
Treasurer
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

cc. The Hon Andrew Constance MP

Dear Treasurer,

RE: Parking Space Levy

I am writing to you in relation to the Parking Space Levy (PSL). The Property Council has long maintained that Parking Space Levy is an unjustifiable tax on business and jobs. This position as outlined in our December 2016 submission to the *Review of the Parking Space Levy Act 2009* has not changed. There continues to be little evidence that it is achieving its objectives.

We acknowledge that you have deferred the levy for 6 months. We have been advised by our parking asset owners that additional relief is in order. It is our view that the levy should, as both a 'rescue' and a 'recovery' measure be waived for a period of 6 months to align with the emergency health measures in place to protect against the spread of Coronavirus (COVID19). At very least, this should be done as part of a staged return to work plan between now and the end of September. We believe this measure would have immediate positive impacts right across the community. Indeed, it could be seen as a low-cost high impact initiative.

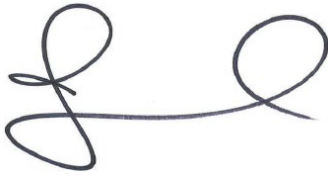
The main reasons to waive the levy for the next few months are:

- Reduced prices make it **more affordable for workers to drive** – this would relieve pressure on family and business budgets.
- It would help **reduce human contact** by moving more commuters from congested public transport to private vehicles.
- It would **increase demand in the short** term for parking spaces in the CBD and
- It would assist owners and business **reduce their overheads** are a time of crisis.

Car park operators have reported significant falls in business including in casual parkers. Parking outside businesses hours has reduced significantly. If the policy intent of the levy is to reduce congestion, then clearly during a period where only essential travel is permitted such a levy is redundant and therefore should be waived for as long as COVID 19 health related travel measures remain in place.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a loop.

Jane Fitzgerald
NSW Executive Director
The Property Council of Australia