



MELBOURNE SOUTH YARRA RESIDENTS GROUP INC.

Established by the residents of South Yarra in 1969

14 April 2015

Mr Clément Michel
Chief Executive Officer
Yarra Trams
GPO Box 5231
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Proposed change - number 8 tram South Yarra

We have recently been informed that you have proposed to government that the number 8 tram that currently travels along Toorak Road, Park Street, Domain Road and St Kilda Road to the city, the universities and beyond will not be continued and that instead:

- when the tram reaches St Kilda Road it will continue on down Kings Way and along Williams Street to West Coburg; and
- in order to travel to the Arts Centre, Federation Square, Flinders Street Station, the main city shopping complex and beyond it will be necessary to change trams at the Domain Interchange.

1. Objection

There are many reasons why such a change should not be made and in particular the following.

- (a) A large number of the residents of South Yarra who use this tram as a means to get into the city are elderly and getting on and off trams is frequently a cause of difficulty and danger.
- (b) The difficulty for those residents is further exacerbated by making timing of their arrival in the city more uncertain.
- (c) The reputation of South Yarra and the reason many people late in their lives move into this area is because of the easy access to the number 8 tram to get to the most popular destinations.
- (d) It is also an important route for tourists who wish to go to the Botanic Gardens or the shops and restaurants in Toorak Road and Chapel Street which are major shopping areas. This change will create a further disincentive to visitors, in addition to the well-known ones created by Myki.

Such a change should not be made and our organisation and the residents of South Yarra strongly object and will protest to government in every way possible.

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2. Survey

During the course of a recent meeting with your Mr Anthony O'Meara we were informed that a principal reason for the proposal to redirect that tram to the city via Williams Street rather than down St Kilda Road was because 60% of passengers travelling between the interchange and Melbourne University who responded to a questionnaire had a final destination "around Queen Street". As our experience and the anecdotal evidence available to us suggests otherwise we request the following information about that survey.

- (a) What form did the survey to passengers take and could we have a copy?
- (b) On what dates and at what times did the survey take place?
- (c) How many people were surveyed each time and how many people responded?
- (d) What were the responses and destinations?
- (e) Your analysis of the survey and details of any other evidence considered.

We would also appreciate the opportunity for further discussion with you following consideration of the information you provide and feedback from our members and other residents of South Yarra.

A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the Minister for Public Transport.

Yours faithfully



Michael Butcher
President