

Please accept my comments for this review that will have real consequences for the future of Australia.

I have ten years experience in the field of Travel Demand Management with a particular focus on TravelSmart within Australia and the United Kingdom, this submission however is being made from a personal capacity.

Mixed messages in the community lead to confusion, apathy and disempowerment.

Our current car dominated transport system is eroding the quality of life of Australians from a financial, social and environmental context.

Currently the Federal Government spends meagre funds supporting our Government stance that we are combating global warming through walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure despite hugely successful world best practice programs including TravelSmart.

In contrast however we spend the vast majority of our transport budget on new roads and infrastructure that encourage more and longer car trips and actively discourage active transport modes through safety issues and inadequate road space for public transport and cyclists.

If the future of Australia's transport policy is to be **rational**:

1. Fringe benefits that encourage car use and actively discourage non-car transport modes is a very serious concern that needs to be addressed as a matter of priority if we hope to harness united community understanding and support for key government strategies
2. Programs that deliver cost : benefit ratios to the community of 1:30 such as TravelSmart Household need to be expanded to achieve levels of funding consistent with their merit.
3. Funding for public transport be increased, and where this results in increased patronage the money should be redirected to provide more frequent services.
4. Funding be re-allocated to the whole raft of educational programs that have been discarded by successive governments. This should include funding to determine the effectiveness of these programs. Valuable programs that have been disbanded recently include the Police Bike Education program, Safe Routes to School and Driver Education. The Perth Walking School Bus Program is unable to cater to additional schools due to overwhelming demand. (Current funding criteria and a lack of money and attention to determine their effectiveness puts these educational programs with long term benefits behind traditional roads based projects).

If the future of Australia's transport policy is to be **political** then:

5. We cannot ignore repeated surveys that show 84% of residents want decision makers to focus on non-car transport modes even when told that there will be trade-offs at the expense of driving. ('2010 TravelSmart 10 year plan'.)

It is always safer and so easier to spend public money in the manner that it has traditionally been spent, even if all the research shows it not to be effective.

It takes commitment and courage to identify and solve public problems in new ways. I hope this Government will stand behind the widespread public and scientific support for making strong intelligent transport decisions to give Australia and it's people the future we deserve and cement our role as a leader in this new age of global warming.

Yours sincerely,
Leon Ebbelaar