

## 6.2. MM02 Parking Review

At its meeting on 22 February 2021, the Traffic Committee resolved to acknowledge the discrepancy in parking entitlements between apartment dwellings and free-standing dwellings and it was agreed I would write a Mayoral Minute seeking to have the policy reviewed.

The matter was brought to my attention by a resident of a large, older style apartment who noted that his family's access to resident parking permits was less than if he lived in a detached dwelling.

Council has traditionally allocated fewer permit entitlements for apartments because the physical kerb space along the property frontage must be shared with many more people than would live in one or two dwellings with similar length kerb frontage.

The flaw in this thinking is that one resident should have more access to kerb space than another because of the type of house they live in. To my mind, our streets are public assets which should be shared fairly among us all.

In the past, apartment living was generally considered the preserve of young urban professionals or empty nesters returning to the inner city after a stint in the suburbs raising a family. Over the past decade this has changed and the exodus of young families to the outer suburbs has eased as many choose to remain in the inner city and raise their children in apartments.

Our old art deco buildings that hug much of our foreshore have many unit blocks with large apartments that can comfortably accommodate several adults, who may be unable to share a vehicle with another member of the household.

I know on-street parking is a scarce resource and that demand sometimes outstrips supply. I also know, after nine years as Mayor, that there is no easy solution. But I don't feel the current situation is equitable and I am therefore proposing we review the status quo and tweak the current arrangements.

Perhaps our Traffic Team could select an area and trial increasing the parking permits for apartments to match the number available for detached dwellings. With Licence Plate Recognition and parking sensors, Council has the technology to monitor the trial area closely to see the real impact of the decision.

### **I therefore recommend:**

- 1. THAT** the Traffic Department prepare a report outlining how greater equity in parking permit allocation can be achieved.

**2. THAT** the report include a methodology to trial increased permit allocation for apartment dwellers to match permit allocation for detached dwellings in a small area so that the impact can be assessed.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON  
MAYOR**