

D Grade: Round 3

That we should introduce a congestion charge on motor vehicles entering the Melbourne CBD

There has long been debate about how to resolve Melbourne's growing traffic problem. According to the ABS, between 2011 and 2016 the number of households in Australia without a motor vehicle fell while the numbers with motor vehicles rose considerably with 83.9% of the population owning at least one car. Melbourne's population grew by 25% between 2011 and 2017. These factors put increased pressure on Melbourne's roads and infrastructure- especially given that the CBD is a limited space with hardly any room for growth. Melbourne is the 58th most congested city in the world according to TomTom.

While the growth in population and demands on the roads is not in dispute, the government's policy response is. Supporters of implementing a congestion charge cite the success of London's congestion tax which has existed since 2003, resulting in a decline in traffic. Critics of the charge suggest other solutions, such as improving alternative ways to get into the CBD such as public transport, along with improvements to road and parking infrastructure.

Some questions to consider:

- Is there a traffic problem in Melbourne? How big is this problem, and how important is it to solve?
- Would a congestion charge be effective at reducing congestion?
- Why do people currently use cars to get into the CBD? What about other vehicles?
- How would a congestion charge work? Who would collect the money and how could it be enforced?
- Are there alternative solutions to a congestion charge that would work more effectively?
- Who would pay a congestion charge? Who would be able to avoid paying the charge? Is this fair?
- What other benefits may come from reduced traffic?

Some articles to consider:

- <https://profile.id.com.au/australia/car-ownership>
- <http://www.population.net.au/melbourne-population/>
- <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-08/truck-causes-peak-hour-chaos-on-west-gate-freeway/9526368>
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-21451245>
- <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/australia-urged-to-consider-congestion-charges-but-do-they-work>
- <http://theconversation.com/the-case-for-congestion-charging-in-australia-152>
- <https://blogs.crikey.com.au/theurbanist/2017/10/04/congestion-charging-inequitable/>