

Parking fee plea

CANDIDATES URGED TO SUPPORT END TO SLUG ON STAFF

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Park the Fee was formed after Scentre Group, which owns Carousel, introduced a paid parking scheme for staff in mid 2018.

It is estimated Scentre is making about \$750,000 a year from Carousel parking alone.

Wilson resident Margaret Taylor, who has worked at Carousel since 1992, wrote to candidates last week.

She wants to know their position on the campaign before casting her ballot on October 19.

“At this election, I will be deciding who I vote for based on whether candidates support free and safe parking for Carousel staff, shop assistants and small business owners and managers,” she said.

“In 2018, I didn’t have to

pay to park at work. Now I have to pay at least \$3 a day. On \$21.41 per hour, that’s more than a week’s worth of my wages each year.”

Ms Taylor said public transport was not an option for her with early or late-evening shifts and she was concerned for her safety.

Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association WA secretary Peter O’Keefe said it was not fair that Scentre was profiting from staff.

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Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association WA secretary Peter O'keefe said it was not fair that Scentre was profiting from staff.

"Carousel staff should not have to pay for a bay," he said.

"Some staff don't have the choice or flexibility of public transport to get to and from work; they have to drive to and park at work because of early morning or late-night shifts, child care or school pick-up or drop-off arrangements, or they may live in areas with poor public transport options."

As of Tuesday, Park the Fee had received responses from 11 candidates.

A spokesman for the campaign said they were thankful for the positive support so far.

"The sentiment from all candidates has generally been positive, with candidates either committing to work towards a solution, or supporting our community campaign for free and safe parking," he said.