



MEDIA STATEMENT

CAMPAIGN FOR FREE, SAFE PARKING FOR CAROUSEL STAFF RAMPS UP

4 October 2019

The community campaign for free and safe parking for Carousel shop assistants, retail workers, small business owners and managers has called on candidates standing in the Local Government election to declare their position on the issue.

The campaign is a response to Scentre, the owner of Westfield Carousel, introducing a paid parking scheme for Carousel staff in mid-2018.

Last week, Wilson resident Margaret Taylor wrote to candidates asking them to support free and safe parking for Carousel staff. Margaret has worked as a shop assistant at Carousel since 1992.

“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. I encourage the local community to do the same.

“In 2018, I didn’t have to pay to park at work. Now I have to pay at least \$3 a day to park at work. On \$21.41 per hour, that’s more than a week’s worth of my wages each year.

“I have to drive to work because I’m concerned for my safety when I have early morning or late-night work shifts,” Margaret Taylor said.

‘Park the Fee’ is a campaign powered by the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association WA (SDA WA), the union for retail, fast food and warehouse workers.

“For some Carousel staff, they 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,” SDA WA Secretary Peter O’Keeffe said.

“We know Scentre are making at least \$750,000 each year from Carousel staff parking alone and we just don’t think it’s fair”

“Carousel staff shouldn’t have to pay for a bay. We want Scentre to reverse the paid parking fee for Carousel staff and our campaign will continue for as long as it needs to”, said Mr O’Keeffe.

The ‘Park the Fee’ campaign will be publishing the results of its survey of candidates in local newspapers and through social media to raise awareness and encourage the local community to support candidates who support Carousel staff.

More information on the campaign can be found on the Park the Fee website, www.parkthefee.com, and on the ‘**Park the Fee – WA**’ Facebook page.

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