

Dear Deakin Students and Deakin Staff,

This email is to brief you on changes to parking at Deakin in 2012. I acknowledge that for many of us parking is a significant distraction and that something needs to be done.

I have thus begun to look at parking from the perspective of customer service rather than capital infrastructure. In doing so I have observed that Deakin parking is subsidised, yet we expect everyone to pay the full cost of childcare, the full cost of food and the full cost of accommodation - just a few comparisons to make my point.

Additionally, car parking at Deakin is less costly than at many other universities and so driving and parking cars on our campuses is mostly more attractive financially than taking public transport.

I don't think we can keep building and maintaining car parks at the current fees we charge. It is not sustainable in a world where we will be charged for our carbon and where we must use our resources wisely and strategically. We need to bear in mind that we currently subsidise our car parks at the expense of our core business.

To reduce demand for parking on campus, and to encourage more staff and students to adopt sustainable transport alternatives, the Executive and Council's Finance and Business Affairs Committee have agreed that the cost of car parking at Deakin must increase.

The major changes to car parking arrangements from Trimester 1, 2012 are:

- the annual fee for general (blue) parking permits will increase to \$400 for staff and to \$250 for students
- fees for daily, hourly and University vehicle permits are to
- be increased by 50%
- fees for unallocated reserved permits are to be set at \$800
- and for allocated reserved permits at \$1,500 (reserved parking is available only at the Geelong Waterfront and Melbourne Burwood
- campuses)
- free car parks at the Geelong Waurin Ponds and Warrnambool
- campuses are to be converted to permit parking since there is still a cost to construction, and
- red parking permits are to be discontinued.

I realise that these new arrangements will upset some students and staff. I also understand that for some students and staff studying and working at the Geelong and Warrnambool campuses, public transport services are limited or impractical, especially in comparison with the Melbourne Burwood campus. However we all work and study at the one University and so we must all contribute. I will continue to work hard to press for improved public transport access for each of our campuses and to promote other modes of transport.

I encourage all of you to look at the range of sustainable transport targets and activities currently being undertaken at Deakin:

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/about/environment/programs/transport.php>

These targets and activities aim to contribute positively to the reduction of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions through the University's car fleet, reducing fuel use and increasing alternative transport options for study and work related purposes.

I trust that you will take some time to consider these new arrangements in the light of the need to reduce Deakin's carbon footprint, to release more funds for Deakin's teaching and research activities, and to keep pace with other institutions who are also working hard to reduce the demand for on-site car parking.

Details regarding the new car parking arrangements will be published in due course at www.deakin.edu.au/parking/

As always, if you have ideas for other solutions, or would like your perspective on this or any other matter heard, please email or write to me in the normal way.

Best wishes

Professor Jane den Hollander
Vice-Chancellor