

To the Productivity Commission Enquiry into Airport Regulation,
CC: ACCC Airport Group
CC: Canberra Airport Corporation

I refer to your invitation for submissions and the ACCC submission described at <http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/1011692/fromItemId/142>

As a pensioner and person with a mobility impairment, required to fly to Sydney recently, overnight, at short notice, for appointments associated with my disability, I could not find long-stay disability parking, at a reasonable distance from the terminal, at reasonable prices. I believe that this is due to the Canberra Airport Corporation's monopoly on airport services including parking.

For these reasons, I had to purchase parking at \$38 for < 48 hours, at least several hundred metres from the departure lounge. I could not find a baggage trolley within a reasonable distance, either from my car on departure, or the baggage carousel on arrival. Had I been an hour later, I would have been required to pay \$57? for 48+ hours. These are onerous prices in the Canberra parking market, at least 2x normal rates. I believe the nearest equivalent is the Canberra Centre at \$10 per day for all-day parking, although most parking in Canberra is free and untimed for mobility impaired persons.

I believe that Canberra Airport Corporation has successfully achieved a monopoly on car parking for Canberra Airport by using its market power to:

- Occupy all land within several kilometres of the airport (including Brindabella Business Park), or ensure it remains undeveloped.
- Influence road links to the airport to make car travel and parking an attractive proposition, particularly for last-minute travel.
- Restrict access for transport companies to the airport, or in some other way ensure higher fees for taxi and bus services.
- Restrict competition, particularly in the area of services to persons with a mobility disability, including mainstream services such as airport baggage trolleys.
- Avoid providing quality, inexpensive services that allow persons with a mobility disability to remain independent.

As a result, a small number of expensive parking spots are available at a significant distance from the terminal, for persons with a mobility disability, with no pensioner discount, and no close baggage trolleys. Taxi services are difficult to book and unreliable, buses are slow and indirect, and other parking is unavailable. The nearest parking is in Brindabella Business park, also owned by Canberra Airport Corporation, where long stays are prohibited, and charged at airport rates if they do occur. Other parking spaces are at least several kilometres distant.

Compared with significant quantities of available, free, untimed mobility impaired parking in the rest of Canberra, the Canberra Airport Corporation monopoly has resulted in a small number of costly, timed, mobility impaired parking spaces with no significant competition.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Tim Wilson-Brown