



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Mona Vale Village Park Carpark Changes (Stage 1 of 1)

Impact level: Four

Report date: 23 December 2020

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1. Summary¹

Project Title	Mona Vale Village Park Carpark Changes
Impact Level	4
Stage(s)	1 of 1 stage
Report Period	6 November 2020 to 3 December 2020
Version	2.0
Status	Final

This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of the Mona Vale Village Park Carpark Changes project. The consultation period was from 6 November 2020 to 3 December 2020.

The key themes that emerged from the community engagement included the change in time restrictions, future electric vehicle parking/charging spaces and motorbike versus accessible spaces.



There were many positive comments which acknowledged that Mona Vale is a busy commercial precinct and parking spots can be difficult to find. The removal of the Council staff parking and increasing the number of general use spaces was considered in the comments as a positive change.

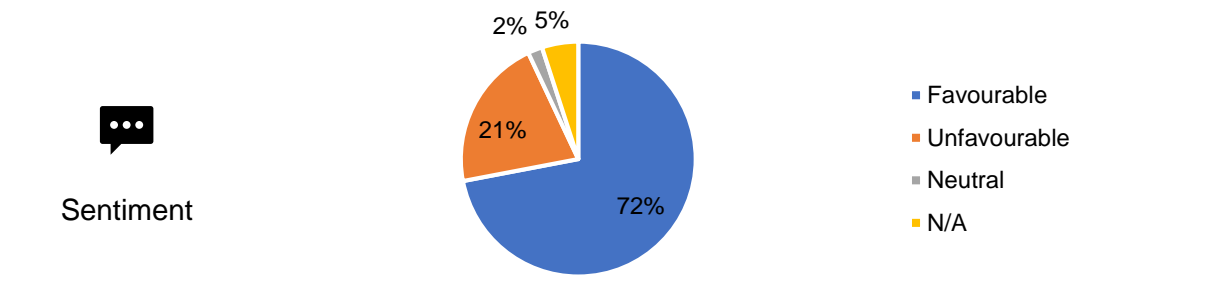
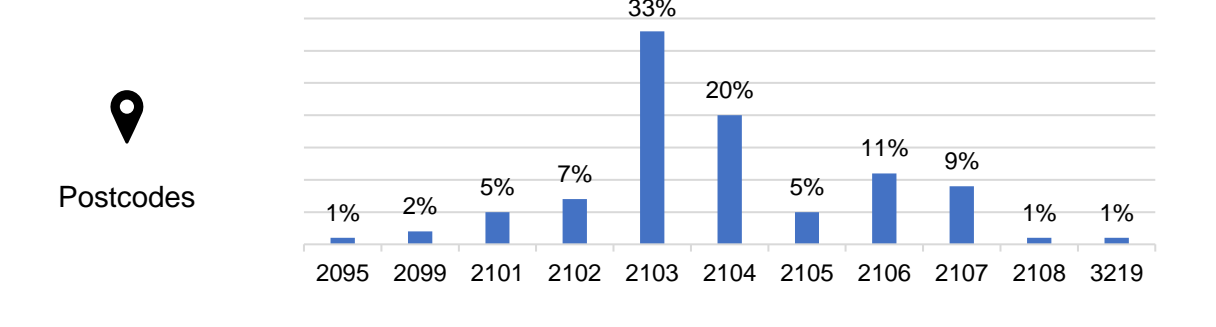
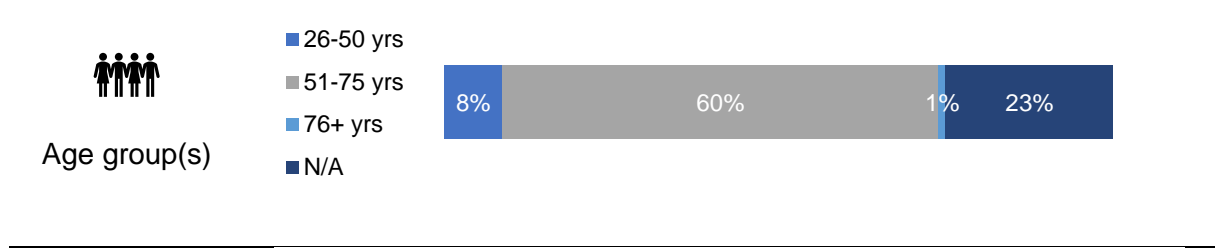
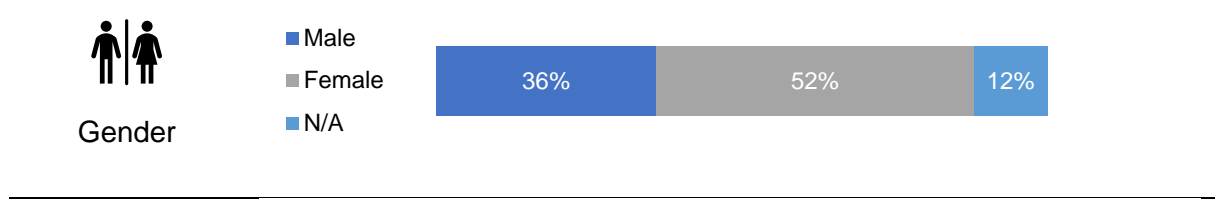
In addition, there were respondents who felt that there should be more accessible car spaces provided. Other comments said there were too many motorbike spaces and some of these could be converted to accessible spaces.


There were many comments and mixed feelings about the potential future electric vehicle (EV) parking/charging stations. Many responders didn't think there was a need for dedicated EV parking spaces, believing that all spots should be for general use, while a few comments were supportive of being environmentally conscious and believing it would encourage EV purchases in the future.

¹ Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.

1.1. Who we engaged

 Total engaged	1,340	 Total submissions	92
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Feedback themes

 - Electric vehicle spaces
 - Time restrictions
 - Motorbike spaces
 - Accessible parking
 - Alternate uses.

1.2. How we engaged

 Have Your Say	Visitors: 1,340 Visits: 1,555	Average time onsite: 1m10s
 Collateral	Site signs: Yes Flyers distributed to businesses:1	Number: 6 Number:100
 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Council eNews: 1 Community Engagement newsletter: 2	Distribution: Approx. 150 000 Distribution: Approx. 20,000

2. Background

Mona Vale is a Strategic Centre and car parking is in high demand every day of the week. The Village Park carpark, on the corner of Park Street and Pittwater Road, has 38 car parking spaces, 14 of which are currently reserved on weekdays for vehicles displaying a special Council issued parking permit.

With the move of staff to Dee Why, there is no requirement for Council to continue to provide that number of permit holder parking spaces. Four dedicated parking permit spaces will remain for Council vehicles that require parking in this carpark for business operation purposes.

3. Engagement objectives

- Provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way (inform)
- Identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult)
- Communicate to community and stakeholders how their input was incorporated into the final design (inform).

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Mona Vale Village Park Carpark Changes project was conducted over a four-week period, from 6 November 2020 to 3 December 2020. The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Matrix](#) (2017). A documented engagement approach is outlined in the Mona Vale Village Park Carpark Changes Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (September 2020).

Project details, concept plan of the proposed changes and a submission form were included on the Council's [Have Your Say page](#). It provided a portal for users to visit, find information to support their engagement and offer feedback.

The project was included in the Community Engagement and Council's e-newsletters to reach a wide cross-section of the community. With a distribution list of over 20,000 and 150,000 respectively, these channels provided maximum awareness of the project.

Mona Vale businesses were identified as key stakeholders and flyers were distributed to adjacent businesses to maximise awareness and provide accessible opportunity to comment.

Corflute signs were installed in and around the project site to reach visitors to the site, local residents and users of the Mona Vale Memorial hall and Library.

5. Findings

Theme	What we heard	Response
Electric vehicle (EV) spaces	<p>The comments regarding electric vehicles was mixed.</p> <p>Many responders didn't think there was a need for dedicated EV parking spaces, believing that all spots should be for general use.</p> <p>There were some supportive comments on EVs, believing it would encourage EV purchases in the future.</p>	<p>For the immediate future the proposed EV spaces will remain as public car spaces. A separate community engagement will be undertaken in the future to consider these spaces. The proposed spaces would include charging points.</p>
Changed time restrictions	<p>Numerous comments thought the parking restrictions should remain at 3 hours to allow time for people to attend activities in the Memorial Hall, shop, go to restaurants or socialise.</p> <p>Some respondents supported the proposed change to 2hour parking, agreeing that parking is difficult to find in Mona Vale and this would increase turnover of spaces.</p>	<p>Council will amend the current plan to have 2P parking in the centre spaces and 3P along the edges of the carpark.</p>
Motor bike spaces	<p>While there were many comments supporting the motorbike parking spaces, several responses queried the need for seven spaces for motorbikes and requested a reduction in that number.</p>	<p>The proposed motor bike spaces are to utilise the current No Parking Hatching within the carpark. This means that no car spaces would be lost. Council also previously received requests for additional motor bike spaces so that motorbikes wouldn't need to occupy car spaces.</p>
Accessible car spaces	<p>Several comments thought there should be more accessible parking spaces or some of the motorbike spaces converted to accessible spaces.</p>	<p>The number of accessible car spaces is considered adequate. There is additional accessible spaces available on Park Street as well as the underground parking at Pittwater Place.</p>
Alternate use - open space	<p>Some responders wanted to remove the carpark entirely and convert it into open space for the community.</p>	<p>The purpose of the proposal was to make use of the existing restrictions to better suit the community and businesses. Almost all of the responders commented that parking is in high demand. Removing the carpark entirely would adversely affect the community and local businesses.</p>

6. Appendix 1: Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Submissions received	
1	Great ideas...I think it is a huge improvement. Good to have more parking for community and good to limit to 2 hours per day. Motorbike parking a great idea, as is the proposed electric vehicle spaces.
2	Great to expand the number of available car spaces I still think to have three hour spots is very valid. Gives time to shop, have a hair or beauty or specialist appointment. Two hours sometimes is not enough and I truly think it benefits the whole mona cake community to have longer parking to allow for some intra community activity. I feel very passionately about the ability to engage within the community by having time to participate in the village when necessary. Thank you.
3	I think it should be 3 hours.
4	This makes sense given the special council parking spots seem to be mostly empty all of the time.
5	Excellent idea
6	It is pleasing to see that 10 of the parking spaces reserved for Council which are presently rarely used, will be released for general community parking. However, there are many groups who rent the Memorial Hall and the small meeting room for two hour sessions, and many of these are older, with limited mobility. The present 3 hour parking in this carpark from experience appears to provide regular turnover. While this turnover rate would not change significantly if reduced to 2 hours, it would greatly impact on these regular users who would have no alternative for a three hour parking timeslot except Cole's or Woolworth's parking lots, requiring considerable walking distance.to and from the Memorial Hall. It would be appreciated if their needs could be considered, and the 3 hour parking allowance with 10 more spaces retained.
7	Electric Vehicles should get no special consideration here. They are already heavily subsidised and pay no petrol tax that goes to road maintenance and the weight of the batteries in them makes them disproportionately heavy in relation to their size. There are some arguments that would consider the petroleum/electric hybrid vehicles not to be electric vehicles and there will be a very large manufacturer uptake of this hybrid form until the short travel range of pure electric vehicles is solved. Many major European car manufacturers are now starting to turn their attention to hybrids as they offer a product that cannot be stranded with a flat battery placing their passengers and potentially other road users in potential danger. Properly designed hybrids offer vastly improved fuel mileages, since the generator is run by an engine optimised to run at maximum efficiency because it runs at a constant usually invariant speed. Some ultra high speed hydrocarbon powered turbine driven generators have been postulated by some makers in Japan. I'd suggest electric vehicles have a long way to go before they reach the infancy of their technology. We will have many scrapyards full of them over the next 10 years as the technology matures. Even spending large sums on charging stations based on present technology will be backing a sure loser.

* Personal details have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have only been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.

Submissions received	
8	I support the proposal
9	Why are the council designated parking spaces required everyday. Should they not be applicable at the weekend
10	Hi, the changes look good. Great that you've included motorcycle parking and space for charging electric cars. We've stopped even looking for a park in there as was never anything available, but maybe with 10 more carparks and 2hr car parking it will become an option again.
11	Unless there are proposed re-charging outlets I do not see any need for special places for electric vehicles. If you are proposing to install re-charge outlets, who pays for them? It certainly should not be the rate payers unless you are installing petrol and diesel bowsers as well.
12	A reasonable compromise. I have always considered the amount of council exclusive car parking spaces at that location excessive.
13	I support the changes as proposed. It will free up under utilised spaces for the benefit of the wider community. It will also provide increased activity for those businesses located nearby.
14	Good Proposal
15	Brilliant. Anything that increases parking spaces in Mona Vale is much appreciated! I presume a charging station for the electric vehicles will be introduced too? Well thought out with space for motor vehicles too.
16	While the idea of promoting and rewarding residents for driving electric powered vehicles is an idea it is unfair to the people that can not afford or do not have a choice in the type of vehicle they operate. One designated electric car spot is sufficient in promotion. No electric car spots is fair to the general public.
17	Great idea
18	Good idea. The council's reserved parking spaces are never fully occupied when I drive through there.
19	Good on ya. Those council car parks are annoying
20	good idea
21	I support the provision of parking for electric vehicles.
22	Great idea
23	Welcome changes to increase the number of general car parking spots in this location. However, Council car parks should NOT have dedicated spaces for electric vehicles only. Everybody in the community should be able to use the council carparks. Who would be paying for the set up of these anyway, and the electricity cost to operate?

Submissions received	
24	Agree entirely with this proposal. Park Street is a very busy area for traffic and parking during business hours, and this will only increase after business hours as well with the new restaurant/cafe strip at Pittwater Plaza, already finished and waiting for an end of Covid opening. Being in and around that area, nearly on a daily basis, it is not uncommon to see the majority of these Council dedicated parking spaces vacant, and this for most of the day. To overcome this waste of valuable parking, the plan to increase public parking, and with a two hour limit, has my full agreement.
25	Assuming the proposed electric vehicle parking spots will be equipped with charging facilities I think the 2 spots should be expanded to at least 4. I do not have an electric nor hybrid car. What puts me off is the lack of charging spots and restricted range. If electric vehicles become more popular there will be increased demand for facilities. I expect it would be cheaper to install 4 now rather than 2 now and another 2 later.
26	Yes - I am supportive of the proposal and having more spaces for the community, and capping the council vehicles to only 4 spots.
27	Great idea!!
28	A great idea!! We have been asking for this since the before your amalgamation.
29	This looks a much better idea than the empty permit held car spaces [especially since Covid]
30	can you please provide some 3 hr parking spaces (same as currently) which would enable us to spend more time in restaurants/cafes
31	Agree with motorbike parking but only needs to be 3 positions. The section for 4 motorbikes to be set aside for another "Disability Parking" position. This is badly needed. The future electric vehicle parking is totally unnecessary and should be for any vehicle.
32	Agree with this
33	I do not support this proposal as the council should be encouraging cycling and building more green spaces rather the more spaces for cars. What about putting on a space for car sharing services such as go get. The only part of this proposal that has merit is the electric vehicle spaces with only two spaces completely in adequate.
34	This is a great idea. Every single day most of those spots are empty and they are always in demand. Please do this as soon as possible
35	You have got my full support of the suggested changes. Please reduce the number of reserved Council parking and increase community parking. We'll done for pushing this one!
36	The four parking bays for council use should be publicly accessible on weekends (same as the normal 2P parking)
37	Great Idea. Thank you.
38	Good changed, however keep it to 3 hours parking

Submissions received	
39	I think this is a good idea and a positive move. Parking spots in Mona Vale is scarce. So often those car spaces near the library and reserved for council workers are empty during the day.
40	Great idea. Thank you
41	Excellent idea
42	Remove all car spaces and replace with a nature park. This would make up the area of village green park lost to the bus stop on Barrenjoey road. Then people can catch the bus to enjoy the new park.
43	Good to see more parking available for the community.
44	Good to see more parking available for the community.
45	I agree with all of the suggestions but feel the proposed electric vehicles would be better served for general parking
46	Sounds like a very good idea to me.
47	Totally supported on all counts. Demand is always strong and getting stronger. The EV initiative is an excellent idea
48	Sound good ... hope this idea supported ... thankyou
49	Two hours is insufficient if I wish to study in the library so I would appreciate the current times to remain. More parking for the community would be great as many of the restricted spots empty when I am there.
50	I hope this will allow enough parking for Council. I volunteer with the Library every 2nd Wednesday to deliver books to people at home not able to come to the Library. This involves bringing 2 trolleys with bags of books to load into my car and the same at the other end of the trip when I trolley back the returned bags of books. I use a Council Car space for approximately 20minutes each time. I have a sign that I put on my Dash from the Library to say what is happening. I couldn't do it if I didn't have accessible Car Parking.
51	I agree with most of the changes. I strongly disagree with provisions for electric vehicles. Firstly they do not pay a fuel excess. Secondly the cost of these vehicles is usually the domain of higher income owners...ie why would a Tesla vehicle costing approx \$200,000 which is well above the average Northern Beaches residents ability to own and and get preferential parking. I would also suggest there is a need for more disabled/senior parking than electric vehicle parking. It sounds like a very green idea but it actually is almost offensive. I don't mean to be offensive...parking around MV is very tight...specialised parking should be kept to those residents who need assistance with distance.
52	Yes a great idea as parking in Mona Vale is very limited.
53	Good idea. Parking space is at a premium specially when some have been reserved for taxis on Pittwater Rd
54	Excellent initiative!
55	A very sensible solution

Submissions received	
56	What a great idea... about time!
57	Those spaces are frequently empty, it's a great idea to open them up to the public.
58	It's 8 hour parking that's needed in Mona Vale. Not 2 hour in that spot
59	good thinking
60	a welcome change - it is quite frustrating to enter the park, only to find that the empty spaces are reserved for Council vehicles.
61	Hi, I think the changes are great & 2 hours good compromise. I would be inclined to have 2 mobility spaces although I'm aware there are several more in Park St. Well done
62	I don't think an extra 10 spaces either way really matter. A better result might be to enforce street parking time limits more rigorously via a Ranger who issues tickets to people who selfishly overstay their welcome.
63	I would love to see more disabled parking spots. I work as a carer and my clients like to go for coffee in Mona Vale they're not able to walk long walks.
64	With all the additional units onto of the shops. Residents are parking in normal parking bays through the night and into the mornings. The extra parking here would be good but I feel that more parking is needed.
65	I think that's a great idea!
66	I think whatever you do, more parking needs to be provided, especially as you are building more dwellings. The area is becoming very crowded as more people are moving into the area. Please consider ways to increasing car parking facilities. Also, the field on Pittwater Road for those who are catching the bus to the city or elsewhere is becoming increasingly filled by very early in the morning. If you need to park any later than very early all the spaces have been filled. This also needs to be addressed.
67	A pleasing proposal
68	Great plan! This is a very convenient car park for quick trips to library, pick ups from bus and shopping on the street strip, but often the only available spaces are those currently restricted for council vehicles.

Submissions received	
69	<p>Yet another seemingly piecemeal 'fix' for Mona Vale. Having participated in 'Placemaking' workshops for Mona Vale with the previous Council I simply find this frustrating.</p> <p>Where's the 'big picture' plan that encompasses the entirety of Mona Vale CBD? It must surely exist? Seeing these details in isolation makes no real sense.</p> <p>This part of Park Street should be closed to vehicle traffic. The carpark could then be made back into open space and the community hall could have nice connectivity with an immediately adjacent 'green space' for public events (handy in a COVID world).</p> <p>There is so much more we should be doing to rid ourselves of unnecessary reliance upon cars and their 'uglification' of all our community spaces.</p> <p>Let's not play catch-ups with the rest of the world. Let's set an example for them to follow?</p>
70	Excellent idea!
71	About time after reduction of staff at old council chambers
72	I support the changes - it will facilitate and support businesses in the immediate vicinity.
73	Perfect proposing
74	<p>I love the electric vehicle parking ... will it be possible to recharge there?</p> <p>I think two hours is too short for the pink zone. Three is good. You can do some shopping, have lunch with friends, go to the library and not be panicking all the time about when the parking runs out.</p> <p>Four is a bit excessive for council workers, given the high demand for spaces. Maybe three?</p> <p>Motorbike parking is a great idea.</p>
75	It is great that there will be car spaces freed up from former staffed parks, but the reducing the time to 2 hours will definitely impact on the attendees at the adjacent community centre, especially seniors who attend meetings and activities there every day. This hall is one of our busiest community centres. Could the times please stay at 3 hours?
76	I believe this is a good solution to release the 10 Council Officers special permit parking. However I believe there needs to be an extra Accessible parking spot as the community hall is used extensively and one is not enough.
77	I agree with the increase in public spaces for car parking and the 2 hour limit.
78	why do you need 7 motor cycle spaces?
79	That looks a good option.

Submissions received	
80	Get rid of the Car park entirely and make it open space. Really 38 parking spaces is neither here nor there in the scheme of viable parking places in Mona Vale. Move the children's playground from beside the old library building and make that area the council vehicle car park plus room for the 2 electrical vehicle stations. Or move the dedicated council parking, motor cycle parking and electric vehicle stations opposite the village car park, to the corner of Pittwater Road & Park St and make all 38 parking places in the village car park 1 hour only. Short time parking is essential in a busy shopping precinct like Mona Vale.
81	What is the purpose of the two Electric Vehicle dedicated parking spaces? Is it proposed to incorporate two vehicle charging stations in these spaces? If so, what measures do council propose to prevent normal (petrol) vehicles parking in these bays? Is parking in these bays only for 100% electric vehicles or are any "hybrid" vehicles (any vehicles showing a blue EV triangle on the number plate) permitted to park there? Even if they do not use electric charging e.g. hydrogen powered vehicles?
82	Great plan, with the council offices being in Cromer and parking spots are hard to come by with ever increasing traffic, this is a great option. Motorcycle parking doesn't seem to take away parking spots for cars, which is good as well.
83	I agree with the change in the number of car spots for the car park and the time changes as parking is difficult to find a lot of the time.
84	Parking is in high demand because we lost the parking on the other side of Barrenjoey Road when Council handed it over to Transport NSW for bus travellers only whereas previously it was open to local shoppers. Other parking was also restricted with spots permanently reserved (although rarely occupied) for the Mayor and other council staff. Now you plan to make it even more difficult for local shoppers and shop keepers by limiting the time to 2 hours. Two hours is not long enough and will not encourage people to shop and browse in Mona Vale. They will go to Warriewood Square instead and the shopkeepers in Mona Vale will lose customers.
85	I agree with these changes and congratulate council on allocating more parking spaces without impinging on our much needed open space.
86	Looks good.
87	Scrape the electric car spots. Charging locations should not be in prime locations.
88	I'm pleased to see 2 spaces for electric cars will be included. I assume that means charging stations will be included with these. I'd also like to ask: are there plans to make Bungan Street between the two roundabouts pedestrian access only? It would be marvellous for the village feel of Mona Vale. Currently it's more like a car park.
89	Absolutely agree with this change...commend the inclusion of 2 spaces for electric vehicles and spaces for motorcycles....as we are all aware...parking is always an issue and any extra spaces are a bonus.

Submissions received	
90	<p>I use these car spaces frequently attending events for and with my children at the Memorial hall, the Library, the art studio across the road, Sacred Heart Church, the school (drop off and pick up) and when shopping at many of the local stores. Sometimes I will park in these spots to have lunch, pick up a child and attend one of the above places, so to have 3P parking close to amenities or within a reasonable walk is crucial. I agree with less council spaces if that is what council see its needs are, although I wonder at the reduction of the Disable space (I do not use these, but have experienced how difficult it can be to park if you are not fully able). The addition of so many bike spaces seems like overkill. Could a few be shared to another place in the area? I agree with the electric vehicle parking but I am not aware of how much these would be utilised. In summary, for me, to retain the 3P parking in that area is crucial</p>
91	<p>Agree with Council proposal.</p>
92	<p>It's a shame council didn't have the foresight to create parking under council buildings throughout Pittwater.</p> <p>Parking is becoming more difficult as motor vehicles proliferate and populations increase.</p> <p>I think it's a great idea to free these reserved spaces but think having 2 dedicated for electric vehicles is unfair.</p> <p>Why discriminate, was this idea put forward by an electric car owner?</p> <p>All vehicles should be treated the same regardless of ideology.</p>