

City of Hobart recently made some changes to parking fees across the CBD. These new charges came into effect from 1 July 2021. This factsheet explains more about those changes. What happened. Why they happened. And what it means for people wanting to park in Hobart.

Have parking prices increased?

In some cases parking fees have gone up this year. In other cases there have been minimal or no increases.

Why have some parking fees increased?

Where fees have increased, it is for two main reasons.

First, parking is a critical service for the city and the new fees will help to fund ongoing parking infrastructure maintenance and meet the growing cost of delivering many other services, which the people of Hobart rightly expect.

Those other services include things like good roads, accessible bushland, enjoyable parks, emergency management and essential waste and stormwater services.

Second, higher fees for premium CBD short-stay parking spaces encourage turnover. These premium spaces are in high demand. Higher prices encourage people to stay only a short while in these spaces. That helps ensure that more people can find a parking spot when and where they need one.

Is parking in Hobart expensive?

Hobart remains one of the most affordable capital cities in Australia for CBD parking, even after the recent changes.

And City of Hobart will continue to provide more than 1.3 million hours of free parking in off-street car parks this year.

Do prices increase each year?

No. There was no price increase for any city parking during the whole of 2020-21.

Is City of Hobart price gouging by increasing parking fees?

Absolutely not. We only increase prices to meet the increased cost of delivering services.

Also, City of Hobart is just one of many parking providers in the city. Drivers can choose to use the services of other providers if they wish to.

Are the fee changes because of COVID-19?

COVID-19 has had a big impact on our budget, and therefore the funding available to provide all services to our community.

Parking income is just part of our overall income. Increasing parking charges is one part of a bigger effort to respond to the unprecedented financial impacts of COVID-19.

Has the cost of all metered parking gone up?

It's a mixture. Some fees have stayed the same. Some have gone down. And some have gone up.

The price of parking at 153 bays remains the same. No change. A further 105 bays have had a price drop of 50 cents per hour.

More than 1500 parking bays have incurred a price increase of between 50 cents and \$1 per hour, based on modelling of occupancy, turnover and usage patterns.

Is metered parking expensive?

City of Hobart operates 2487 metered and unmetered bays. Almost one in five of those – 440 – are completely free.

The remaining 2047 paid parking spaces have an average cost of just \$3.61 per hour.

In total 60% of all paid parking bays are priced between just \$2 and \$3 per hour or part thereof.

Only 40%, 828 bays, are charged at the maximum tariff. This year, the maximum hourly rate for paid meters increased from \$3.50 to \$5.00/hour. These are spots in high demand, where turnover is important so that more people can find a parking spot when and where they need one.

What has happened in the off-street car parks?

The first hour of parking in our off-street car parks remains completely free. And the cost of 4 hours parking remains the same.

Only the second and third hour parking fees increased. Staying for 2 hours now costs \$4.00, a \$2.00 increase, while 3 hours parking has also increased by just \$2.00 to \$6.00.

What has happened to parking in North Hobart?

After significant consultation with residents and retailers, metered parking began in the main North Hobart Elizabeth Street strip during peak lunch and evening periods (11am-2pm and 5pm-8pm).

It remains free, though time controlled, at all other times.

Council also made Condell Place and Lefroy Street car parks free from 6pm to support customers and traders.

Since these changes, both precinct occupancy and compliance in North Hobart have increased, meaning more access for more people and fewer infringements.

Are the City's Parking Officers encouraged to book vehicles?

Absolutely not. There are no quotas, no targets, and no benchmarks for issuing parking fines.

Our Parking and Information Officers are primarily encouraged to provide information and guidance to motorists.

Are parking fees discouraging people from coming into the CBD?

Hobart remains one of the most affordable capital cities in Australia for CBD parking.

On-street parking tends to cost a little more because it is for high-turnover short-duration stays.

Pricing for on-street parking is designed to keep one or two spaces vacant in any one block at any one time. That helps avoid congestion, queuing, tailbacks and people driving around and around trying to park.

People wanting to stay for longer in the CBD can use our off-street multi-story car parks. The City of Hobart provides more than 2500 parking bays in off-street parking in and around the CBD.

This is cheaper than on-street parking and includes free parking for the first 60 minutes.

Do Parking Officers give fines as soon as the meter expires?

No. They always offer a grace time of several minutes for all overstay and non-payment before issuing an infringement notice.

The grace time ensures that there is sufficient time to make a payment and in recognition that, now and again, we all get held up for a little while before returning to our vehicle.

Council provided over 2.5 million minutes of grace in the last 12 months.

Where can I find out more?

Answers to your frequently asked questions are available on our website at www.hobartcity.com.au/City-services/Parking