
**MM7/24 ISSUING OF INFRINGEMENT NOTICES FOR PARKING
OFFENCES - Mayor, Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM****File Number: MYR/07/10/20 - BP24/181**

The Minister for Finance, the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, has written to all mayors in relation to ticketless parking fines.

The letter details that *45% of all penalty notices issued in NSW last year are for parking infringements. 55% of parking fines are issued by local councils using the ticketless parking fine scheme introduced in May 2020.*

The Minister then outlines the key concerns in relation to ticketless parking fines which are:

- *the difficulty in gathering evidence in the event the driver wants to seek a review of a fine.*
- *The reduced impact of a fine to act as an immediate deterrent and influence behaviour, and*
- *that a driver can receive multiple parking infringements before receiving a notice via post or the Service NSW app.*

The Minister is requesting that councils enhance their parking fine process so that drivers are provided immediate, written notification at the time they are issued with a parking fine. There is also a request that photographic evidence be captured and transmitted to Revenue NSW. Currently these actions are not a requirement.

The City of Ryde currently issues over 93% of parking fines directly to the offending vehicle, ie the Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) are left on the windscreen. This acts as a visual deterrent and promotes good parking behaviour by other motorists. Council also takes photographic evidence to document the parking offence.

The remaining 7% of parking tickets are issued via “print and post”. This is due to Work, Health and Safety reasons for both the Council Officer and members of the community. For example, Council will issue tickets to offending vehicles in school zones via “print and post” to ensure the safety of young school children and Council Officers.

Finally, I can confirm the City of Ryde Council is already complying with both legislative requirements and Council’s Policy requirements, and this is evidenced with over 93% of PINs being issued in a fair and transparent way, in accordance with community expectations.

MM7/24 (continued)**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) That a response be sent to the Minister for Finance outlining Council's current procedures with regard to the issuing of parking infringements and noting that the current system is in line with the recommendations made by the Minister.
- (b) That Council continue to regulate parking matters in accordance with fair and transparent practices and legislative requirements.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Letter from Minister for Finance regarding issuing of parking fines

Report Prepared By:

Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM
Mayor

MM7/24 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

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The Hon Courtney Houssos MLC

Minister for Finance
Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement
Minister for Natural Resources



Ref: MO_714_1_16700

Clr Sarkis Yedelian OAM
Mayor
Council of the City of Ryde
Locked Bag 2069
NORTH RYDE NSW 1670
By email: cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au

Re: Ticketless parking fines

Dear Clr Yedelian,

The NSW Government values the important role that councils play in providing crucial services to local communities.

As part of our focus on addressing cost-of-living pressures on families and households, the NSW Government is committed to making the state's fines system fairer.

45% of all penalty notices issued in NSW last year are for parking infringements. 55% of parking fines are issued by local councils using the ticketless parking fine scheme introduced in May 2020.

While there are some benefits to the ticketless system, I am aware of community concerns around the issuing of ticketless parking fines, particularly the timeliness of fine notifications.

I understand the Council of the City of Ryde currently utilises the ticketless parking system.

The key concerns in relation to ticketless parking fines are:

- the difficulty in gathering evidence in the event the driver wants to seek a review of the fine,
- the reduced impact of a fine to act as an immediate deterrent and influence behaviour, and
- that a driver can receive multiple parking infringements before receiving a notification via post or the Service NSW app.

I believe these concerns can be addressed by implementing some simple administrative measures.

I am requesting your council enhances your parking fine process so that drivers are provided immediate, written notification to drivers at the time they are issued with a parking fine. This is currently not a requirement of the scheme.

This could be as simple as a note, which could take the form of a standardised, pre-printed card, noting that a fine has been issued.

MM7/24 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

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This note does not necessarily need to form part of the infringement notice but at a minimum it should inform the driver they will soon receive an infringement notice via post or the Service NSW app.

Doing so will provide drivers immediate notification that they have been given a parking fine and will allow them to take their own photos and note down relevant details.

One of the key benefits of the ticketless parking scheme is that it provides drivers with access to photographic evidence of their alleged infringement. This streamlines the review process.

Whilst currently not a mandatory requirement of the scheme, I am also requesting your council review its processes to ensure photographic evidence is captured and transmitted to Revenue NSW.

For the avoidance of doubt, while the Government does not wish to cause disruption to your council's operation of the program, I believe there is an overriding public interest in taking action to address these concerns.

While there have been limited reports of abuse and aggression directed towards parking officers, I am acutely aware of the need to protect all employees in their workplace.

Given officers are already inputting details into their device and taking photos, providing a simple notification should not add significant risk to their work.

The current implementation of the ticketless parking system has eroded trust in parking fine system. Providing immediate notification to drivers is the right thing to do and is an important first step to restoring community trust in the administration of the fines system.

Next steps

I would be grateful if you could advise Revenue NSW of the following:

- If Council of the City of Ryde already provides immediate notification to drivers as part of your council's parking fine regime.
- What actions Council of the City of Ryde intends to take to address community concerns about the program, including where any support can be provided by Revenue NSW.

I believe these common sense changes ensure the parking fine systems functions in a fair and transparent way and meets community expectations.

I'm grateful for your partnership in the matter and welcome further discussion. Please direct correspondence and queries to Revenue NSW on (02) 9566 8476 or via email businesspartners@revenue.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely,



The Hon Courtney Houssos MLC
Minister for Finance
Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement
Minister for Natural Resources

9 March 2024