

Opal fares from 16 October 2023

29 September 2023

1 Travel costs to increase by 3.7% on average

Transport for NSW has notified IPART that it will increase some Opal fares from 16 October 2023^a.

Most single adult fares, daily and weekend caps will increase by around 5.5%.

Transport for NSW has decided to remove the Weekly Travel Reward which allowed half price travel after 8 paid trips in a week but has also reduced the daily travel cap on Fridays to \$8.90.

There will be no change to:

- the 0-3km fare for peak travel on bus and light rail, and the Stockton Ferry in Newcastle
- the \$2.50 daily cap for Opal Gold card (Senior / Pensioner) customers
- the \$50 or \$25 weekly caps for Adult Opal and Concession/Child/Youth Opal card customers
- the Transfer Discount for journey mode changes within 60 minutes.

Transport for NSW estimates the combined impact of these changes to weekly travel costs will be an increase of 3.7% based on average trips.

2 IPART's determination of maximum fares

Opal fares are fares for train, bus, ferry, light rail and metro services on which an Opal card can be used. These services operate in Sydney, Newcastle, the Central Coast, Wollongong, the Blue Mountains and Hunter regions.

Our determination sets appropriate maximum fares for these services until 30 June 2024. Any discounts, concession fares, travel rewards, travel caps or other fares set below the appropriate maximum fares are not set by our determination but decided by Transport for NSW.

IPART has considered the planned changes and found that they do not exceed the appropriate maximum fares in Schedule 1 of the [current Opal fare determination](#)^b available on our website.

The 0-3km fare for peak travel on bus and light rail, and the Stockton Ferry in Newcastle are equal to the appropriate maximum fare. All other fares remain below the appropriate maximum fare.

^a See letter in Attachment A.

^b Note that Schedule 1 of the current Opal fare determination presents maximum fares *excluding* GST. The 2023 Opal fares presented in Attachment A *include* GST.

A Letter from Transport for NSW



**Transport
for NSW**

Ms Fiona Towers
Executive Director Pricing and Policy
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35 Haymarket Post Shop
NSW 1240

Dear Ms Towers

The Government has approved changes to Opal fares commencing 16 October 2023 as follows:

- Friday travel will now be cheaper: Fridays will be charged as weekend fares, meaning passengers can travel all day for no more than \$8.90 (\$4.45 Child/Youth and Concession passengers) and will receive a 30% off-peak fare discount on metro/train, bus and light rail services all day, every Friday.
- Increases to most Opal fares as shown in the attached Fare Table.
- The Weekly Travel Reward, which allowed half price travel after 8 paid trips in a week, will be removed. The proportion of customers accessing this travel reward in recent years has significantly decreased due to changing travel patterns, meaning less customers are unlocking this Opal benefit.

There will be no change to:

- The \$50 weekly cap for Adult Opal customers and the \$25 weekly cap for Concession and Child/Youth Opal customers.
- The \$2.50 daily cap for Gold Senior/Pensioner Opal card customers.
- The 0-3km bus and light rail fares, which are already at the current maximum prescribed by IPART.
- Transfer Discount for journey mode changes within 60 minutes.

Overall, the Opal fare changes will result in an increase of 3.7% to average travel cost, after taking into account Opal caps and benefits; less than the latest average annual Sydney consumer price index (CPI) movement of 7% in the June 2023 quarter.

Please see the attached Fare Table for more information on the new pricing for daily caps and Opal fares.

If there are any issues, please feel free to contact Aaron Murray on [REDACTED] or Ann Fong on [REDACTED], or via email at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

Christina Limbidis
Director Revenue Management
Customer Strategy and Experience
Transport for NSW

New Opal reloadable and contactless payment* fares from 16 October 2023

Train			Bus			Light rail			Ferry		
Band	Current Adult (peak) fare	Current Adult (off-peak) fare	Band	Current Adult (peak) fare	Current Adult (off-peak) fare	Band	Current Adult (peak) fare	Current Adult (off-peak) fare	Band	Current Adult (peak) fare	Current Adult (off-peak) fare
0 - 10km	\$4.00	\$2.80	0 – 3km	\$3.20	\$2.24	0 – 3km	\$3.20	\$2.24	0 – 9km	\$6.79	\$6.79
10 – 20km	\$4.97	\$3.47	3 - 8km	\$4.15	\$2.90	3 - 8km	\$4.15	\$2.90			
20 – 35km	\$5.72	\$4.00	8+km	\$5.33	\$3.73	8+km	\$5.33	\$3.73	9+km	\$8.49	\$8.49
36 – 65km	\$7.65	\$5.35									
65+km	\$9.84	\$6.88									

Train			Bus			Light rail			Ferry		
Band	Current Concession (peak) fare	Current Concession (off-peak) fare	Band	Current Concession (peak) fare	Current Concession (off-peak) fare	Band	Current Concession (peak) fare	Current Concession (off-peak) fare	Band	Current Concession (peak) fare	Current Concession (off-peak) fare
0 - 10km	\$2.00	\$1.40	0 – 3km	\$1.60	\$1.12	0 – 3km	\$1.60	\$1.12	0 – 9km	\$3.39	\$3.39
10 – 20km	\$2.48	\$1.73	3 - 8km	\$2.07	\$1.44	3 - 8km	\$2.07	\$1.44			
20 – 35km	\$2.86	\$2.00	8+km	\$2.66	\$1.86	8+km	\$2.66	\$1.86	9+km	\$4.24	\$4.24
36 – 65km	\$3.82	\$2.67									
65+km	\$4.92	\$3.44									

Cap	Adult price	Concession price	Seniors/ Pensioner Gold Opal
Monday – Thursday	\$17.80	\$8.90	\$2.50
Friday	\$8.90	\$4.45	\$2.50
Saturday	\$8.90	\$4.45	\$2.50
Sunday	\$8.90	\$4.45	\$2.50
Weekly	\$50.00	\$25.00	

*Single trip tickets (not displayed) are at around 20 per cent premium to reloadable and contactless prices. Single trip ticket usage is low, at <1 per cent of total trips.