

Author name: B. Hayne

Date of submission: Saturday, 24 February 2024

Your submission for this review:

Please don't increase fares during a cost of living crisis! It may just well be the straw that breaks the citizens' backs. The very citizens who are struggling to make ends meet during these trying times and have to rely on the affordability of public transport. Please consider how stressful and scary life is for someone who has to account for EVERY single dollar they are lucky to have. I personally know exactly how this feels and dread the thought of my transport costs increasing as well. Publicly funded transport is supposed to be a basic service which should be affordable and accessible to all. Increasing fares (and therefore the cost of living for commuters too) will only add to the financial stress people are already feeling in virtually every other aspect of their lives. Should costs increase, it is very possible that people will literally have to decide between going out (to run errands, socialise, work, attend appointments etc), or simply staying at home - because that is all they can afford to do. I fear that I may find myself in this exact position. This resultant drop in patronage is obviously not a desirable outcome, especially if you consider how many people utilised public transport when recent fare-free days were held. In some instances, there were queues down the street! I also request you to please take note of a recent decision made by the Queensland Government. The Premier announced on social media: "Were FREEZING public transport fares to provide more cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders." This is the sort of approach we should be taking in NSW at this difficult point in time as well. Therefore, the only sensible course of action is to please freeze public transport fares during this cost of living crisis.