

Blue Mountains Commuter & Transport Users Assoc.

Ref. Private Bus/Taxis

Date.15th June 03.

Dr.Thomas Parry.
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Submission to the Determination of Passenger Transport Fares from September 2003.

Private Bus and Taxis.

Dear Sir.

Private Bus.

The Association President Mr. Ed McKenzie and myself Secretary of the Association and also Chair of the Blue Mountains Integrated Transport Forum have a small contribution to make in relation to this Determination.

As the private buses are unable to match the fare structure of City Rail throughout the Mountains it is thus difficult for the bus company to offer services that will attract more customers also the preference for the car is very pronounced efforts by the bus Company to offer service to the out areas from the railway stations has not been successful.

The only way that the bus company could compete if the State Government was to review concession fares with the view of increasing the \$1.10 and \$2.20 fares to an agreed amount that includes the private bus services.

This action we believe would attract more customers to the bus service and hence have a flow on effect in that more bus services may be attractive for other customers.

Another aspect that the Association is looking at is the Contracting of bus services by City Rail to provide supplementary services to the trains at the same fare as the train.

The Association cannot see any improvement in the private bus areas until this concession issue is resolved. Any increase in private bus fares may reduce further customer support.

Taxis.

We have had little feedback from members on taxi fares only that there has to be a return fare for customers to pay in the outer areas it is very obvious that most of the commuters either drive their car to the station or picked up by family or friends. Perhaps the taxi fares are too expensive and thus not attractive to the Community in the outer areas, the days of "Grab a Cab" are long gone.

The Taxi Industry should review its role and consider its self as part of the Public Transport System and think laterally and seek opportunities when they can.

Paul Trevaskis Hon. Sect.