

Review of fares for Sydney metropolitan and outer-metropolitan bus services and Newcastle bus and ferry services

From 2 January 2008

A Fact Sheet on IPART's Review of Fares for Sydney Metropolitan and Outer-metropolitan Buses and Newcastle Services

On 17 December, IPART released its determinations on Sydney metropolitan and outer-metropolitan bus fares and Newcastle bus and ferry fares from 2 January 2008. This fact sheet provides an overview of IPART's decisions. The full reports and determinations are available on IPART's website.

Overview

IPART applied a 3 per cent increase to the master fare schedule for Sydney metropolitan regions. (The master fare schedule is the fares IPART determined last year, before rounding.) It then rounded these fares to the nearest 10 cents for single tickets and the nearest dollar for adult TravelPass tickets. After rounding, the weighted average increase in fares is 3.6 per cent. The fare increases in IPART's determination are less than the 6 per cent sought by the Ministry of Transport.

IPART also applied a 3 per cent increase to the master fare schedule for Newcastle bus services. After rounding, the weighted average increase in fares for these services is 4.8 per cent. IPART applied a 1.33 per cent increase to the master fare for the Stockton Ferry but due to rounding, the single fare for the ferry will not increase this year. The fare increases are below the 6 per cent sought by the Ministry of Transport.

For other outer-metropolitan bus services (including services in Wollongong, Central Coast, Hunter Valley, Port Stephens and the Blue Mountains), IPART determined maximum fares that are harmonised with Sydney metropolitan fares. As a result, fares for most passengers in the outer-metropolitan regions will decrease, but fares for some tickets will increase. In weighted average terms, fare harmonisation results in a 6.2 per cent decrease in fares across all outer-metropolitan regions (excluding Newcastle). IPART agreed with the Ministry of Transport's proposal to harmonise fares on the basis that it will simplify the current fare schedules, which are complicated and inconsistently applied.

The impact on the price of individual fares is summarised below.

Single tickets on all Sydney metropolitan bus services

- ▼ Section 1-2, 3-5 and 6-9 tickets will increase by 10 cents
- ▼ Section 10-15 and 16+ tickets will increase by 20 cents.

Other tickets on Sydney Buses services

- ▼ TravelTen tickets will increase by between 80 cents and \$1.60
- ▼ Bus and ferry TravelPasses will increase by either \$1.00 or \$2.00, and Rail-bus-ferry TravelPasses will not change
- ▼ BusTripper tickets will increase by 80 cents and DayTripper tickets will not change
- ▼ The Sports Special return fare will rise by 40 cents and the School Student Term Pass will increase by \$2.70.

Other tickets on Transitway services

- ▼ T-way 10 tickets will increase by 80 cents and \$1.70
- ▼ T-way bus plus weekly tickets will increase by between 40 cents and \$1.90
- ▼ T-way weekly tickets will rise by between \$1.10 and \$1.90.

Tickets on Newcastle Bus and Ferry Services

- ▼ The 1-hour bus ticket will increase by 10 cents
- ▼ The 4-hour bus ticket will increase by 20 cents and the All Day ticket will increase by 30 cents
- ▼ TimeTen 1-hour tickets will increase by 70 cents
- ▼ The Orange TravelPass will increase by \$1.00, and other TravelPasses will not change
- ▼ The single fare for the Stockton Ferry will not change.

IPART's decision aims to balance the interest of bus passengers and people who do not use bus services but fund much of the costs of these services through their taxes.

The key reasons for IPART's decision to allow a 3 per cent increase in fares were:

- ▼ Contract payments under the new bus contract regime increased by 3 per cent in the eight months to June 2007 (compared to the eight months to June 2006), and the Ministry of Transport expects that they will increase by a further 3.6 per cent over 2007/08.
- ▼ The operating costs of other sectors of the bus passenger industry in NSW have increased in the past year. For example, the bus industry cost index measured a 2.85 per cent increase in costs of rural and regional bus operators over the 12 months to June 2007. This increase is mainly attributed to increases in labour costs and bus capital costs.
- ▼ The increase should ensure that the level of farebox cost recovery across metropolitan and outer-metropolitan regions remain at the current level, assuming a modest increase in patronage.

IPART is satisfied that its pricing decisions, which allow increases around the same level as the change in the consumer price index will not have a significant adverse effect on bus passengers or the environment.

The maximum fares for specific tickets that will apply from 2 January 2008 are shown in the attached tables.

James P. Cox
Chief Executive Officer and Full Time Member

Attachment 1 – Sydney metropolitan and outer-metropolitan bus fares, 2008

Table 1 Single fares for bus services in metropolitan (including Transitway services) and outer-metropolitan regions (excluding Newcastle)

Ticket Type	Adult (\$)	Concession (\$)
Single ride fares		
1-2 Sections	1.80	0.90
3-5 Sections	3.00	1.50
6-9 Sections	4.00	2.00
10-15 Sections	4.80	2.40
16+ Sections	5.80	2.90

Table 2 TravelTen fares for Sydney Buses

Ticket Type	Adult (\$)	Concession (\$)
TravelTen		
1-2 Sections	14.40	7.20
3-5 Sections	24.00	12.00
6-9 Sections	32.00	16.00
10-15 Sections	38.40	19.20
16+ Sections	46.40	23.20

Table 3 TravelPass fares for Sydney Buses

Ticket Type	Adult (\$)	Concession (\$)
TravelPass – Bus and Ferry, Bus only		
Blue	32.00	16.00
Orange	40.00	20.00
Pittwater	55.00	27.50
2 Zone	32.00	16.00

Table 4 Other fares for Sydney Buses

Ticket Type	Adult (\$)	Concession (\$)
Bus Tripper	12.10	6.00
Sports Special	5.40	2.70
School Term Pass	-	42.70

Table 5 T-way 10 fares for Transitway

	Adult (\$)	Concession (\$)
T-way 10		
1-2 Sections	15.30	7.60
3-5 Sections	25.50	12.70
6-9 Sections	34.00	17.00
10-15 Sections	40.80	20.40
16+ Sections	49.30	24.60

Table 6 Weekly fares for Transitway

Ticket Type	Adult (\$)	Concession (\$)
T-way bus plus weekly		
1-2 Sections	13.60	6.80
3-5 Sections	25.30	12.60
6-9 Sections	36.10	18.00
10-15 Sections	51.80	25.90
16+ Sections	65.70	32.80
T-way weekly		
North Zone	36.10	18.00
South Zone	36.10	18.00
North + South Zone	65.70	32.80

Attachment 2 - Newcastle bus and ferry fares, 2008

Table 1 Fares to apply from 2 January 2008

Tickets	Adult (\$)	Concession (\$)
1-hour	\$3.00	\$1.50
4-hour	\$5.90	\$2.90
Time Ten 1-hour	\$24.70	\$12.30
All Day	\$9.00	\$4.50
Stockton Ferry single	\$2.10	\$1.00
TravelPass – orange weekly (Bus and Ferry)	\$39.00	\$19.50