

IPART APPROVES INCREASES FOR TRAIN FARES

Embargoed until 11am, Friday 16 June, 2006

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) today approved an average increase to most of CityRails fares of 2.9 per cent from July 2, 2006. IPART has also decided that the discount on off-peak tickets will be reduced from 39 to 30 per cent.

The CityRail Determination was released today by IPART CEO Mr. Jim Cox.

Under the IPART's Determination many suburban single trips will not increase and most of the remainder will increase by only 20 cents.

The key points are:

- Single fares for distances up to 175 km will increase by up to 40 cents, and for distances of 305 km or more by \$1.00,
- TravelPasses will increase by \$1.00,
- Weekly tickets for distances up to 125 km will also increase by \$1.00,
- Off-peak return fares for distances up to 85 km will increase by up to \$1.80.

IPART CEO Mr Jim Cox said "These modest increases are designed to maintain RailCorps' current cost recovery, boost long term financial viability while encouraging consumers with affordable rail transport."

"CityRail service standards - measured by on-time running, number of services cancelled, and security - have improved since the introduction of the new timetable in September 2005," he said.

Mr Cox said IPART agreed to the modest increases to restore the appropriate balance between passenger fares and taxpayer contributions to the cost of public transport.

He said IPART took into account the costs of over \$2.4 billion in providing the rail services, cost recovery levels, service quality and reliability.

"There has not been an increase in train fares since August 2003, with revenue from fares covering only 22% of CityRail's total costs," he said.

Mr Cox said the biggest changes would be the reductions of discounts for off-peak fares. The “off-peak” fares are frequently used during peak times and the cost of providing the service is the same as peak services.

At the next review, IPART will consider further reductions to the off-peak discount.

The full determination is available on IPART’s Web site at:
www.ipart.nsw.gov.au

**Further information contact: Jim Cox Chief Executive Officer and Full-Time Member
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Examples of CityRail fares applying from 2 July 2006

Table 1 Maximum fare changes from 2 July 2006

Trip description	Single Adult		Off-peak return		Weekly	
	Old fare (\$)	New fare (\$)	Old fare (\$)	New fare (\$)	Old fare (\$)	New fare (\$)
Stanmore to Central	2.20	2.40	2.60	3.40	18.00	19.00
Fairfield to Parramatta	2.80	2.80	3.40	4.00	22.00	23.00
Chatswood to Central	3.00	3.20	3.60	4.40	25.00	26.00
Strathfield to Central	3.00	3.20	3.60	4.40	25.00	26.00
Parramatta to Central	4.00	4.00	4.80	5.60	31.00	32.00
Hornsby to Central	4.40	4.40	5.40	6.20	33.00	34.00
Liverpool to Central	4.40	4.40	5.40	6.20	34.00	35.00
Cronulla to Bondi Junction	5.20	5.20	6.40	7.20	37.00	38.00
Penrith to Central	6.60	6.80	8.00	9.60	44.00	45.00
Wollongong to Central	8.80	9.00	10.80	12.60	50.00	51.00
Newcastle to Central	17.00	17.40	21.00	24.40	74.00	76.00

Table 2 TravelPass fare changes from 2 July 2006

Tickets	Weekly	
	Old fare (\$)	New fare (\$)
Sydney TravelPass Red	32.00	33.00
Sydney TravelPass Green	40.00	41.00
Sydney TravelPass Yellow	44.00	45.00
Sydney TravelPass Pink	47.00	48.00
Sydney TravelPass Purple	54.00	55.00