

MODEST INCREASES TO BUS FARES

Embargoed until 11am, 17 December 2007.

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) today released bus fares for the Sydney metropolitan, outer metropolitan and Newcastle regions to take effect from 2 January 2008.

IPART's determination covers both State Transit and private bus fares in the Sydney metropolitan region and private bus fares in outer metropolitan regions.

Bus fares in Sydney will increase by an average of 3.6 per cent. Single ticket prices will increase only by 10 - 20 cents a journey.

IPART Chairman Dr. Michael Keating AC said: "These increases maintain the balance between passenger fares and taxpayer contributions to the cost of public transport without producing a shift away from public transport.

IPART's determination also means that for single trip tickets passengers in outer metropolitan areas will pay the same fare as passengers in the Sydney metropolitan area for the same distance of travel."

TravelTens will increase by no more than \$1.60 and Bus and Ferry TravelPasses by no more than \$2.00. The price of rail-bus-ferry TravelPasses and DayTripper tickets will not change.

Single fares for privately operated services in outer-metropolitan areas have been changed to correspond with Sydney fares. This includes fares for services in Wollongong, Central Coast, Hunter Valley, Port Stephens and the Blue Mountains.

As a result, fares for most passengers in these regions will reduce but fares for some tickets will increase.

The changed fares will produce a fall on average of 6.3 per cent across all outer-metropolitan regions (excluding Newcastle).

Single tickets on Newcastle buses will increase by an average of 4.8 per cent after rounding, resulting in fare increases of between 10 and 30 cents a journey.

The master fare on the Stockton Ferry between Newcastle and Stockton has increased by 1.3 per cent, but after rounding the single fare will not change.

The full determination is available on IPART's website <<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>>.

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