

BUS FARES TO INCREASE

Under embargo until 12.15pm, 16 December 2008

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) today released bus fares for the Sydney metropolitan and outer metropolitan regions to take effect from 4 January 2009.

IPART's determination covers both State Transit and private bus fares in Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle, the Central Coast, Blue Mountains and the Hunter.

Bus fares in Sydney will increase by an average of 5.5 per cent. Single ticket prices will increase by 10 - 30 cents a journey. One-hour tickets on Newcastle buses will increase by 20 cents.

TravelTens will increase by no more than \$2.40 and Bus and Ferry TravelPasses by no more than \$3.00.

For Newcastle, TimeTens will increase by \$1.40. The Newcastle Orange Bus and Ferry TravelPass has been reduced in price by \$5.00 per week. The single fare on the Stockton Ferry between Newcastle and Stockton will increase by 20 cents to \$2.30.

IPART's determination maintains a reasonable balance between passenger fares and taxpayer contributions to the cost of public transport without producing a shift away from public transport." The fare increases are expected to have only a small effect on bus patronage.

IPART Chairman Dr. Michael Keating said: "These increases reflect increases in the cost of providing bus services over the past year."

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

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