

RURAL AND REGIONAL BUS FARES DRAFT REPORT

Embargoed until Friday 12 October 2012 10.30am

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) today released its draft report and determination on rural and regional bus fares.

Under the draft decision from 1 January 2013, maximum fares for country town and rural services will rise on average by 3.3%. Maximum fares for short, single section journeys will not change but for longer distance journeys (up to 70 sections) they will increase by up to 80 cents. Maximum fares for most passengers will increase by between 10 and 30 cents.

The fare increase for rural and regional services reflects increases in the cost of providing bus services during the past 12 months as measured by the Bus Industry Cost Index (BICI).

These fare changes will apply in all areas of NSW other than the Sydney metropolitan and outer metropolitan regions (Blue Mountains, Hunter, Newcastle and Wollongong).

Chief Executive Officer, Mr Jim Cox said: "The majority of passengers travel 10 sections or less. If you travel one section there will be no change in your fare. Fares for most other passengers will increase by 10 to 30 cents per trip."

The draft report also outlines IPART's decision to extend the length of the regulatory period to 5 years. Annual changes in fares will be based on the BICI within this period. We may choose to make a new determination earlier than this, such as if future contracts are competitively tendered.

"A 5-year fare determination will reduce compliance and administrative costs incurred by all stakeholders including industry and IPART" Mr Cox said.

The draft report *Rural and regional bus fares from January 2013* and determination is available on IPART's website <<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>>. A public hearing will be held on the 17th of October at IPART's offices. Submissions may be made to IPART on this draft decision before the 9th of November.

For further information, contact:

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