

HAVE YOUR SAY RE TRANSPORT FARES

Tuesday 18 August 2015

Commuters have just over one week left to have their say about how transport fares should be set across the greater Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong regions.

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is calling for community input into how public transport fares should be set following the roll-out of Opal electronic ticketing.

For the first time, IPART is simultaneously reviewing fares across all rail, bus, ferry and light rail services on which the Opal card can be used in Sydney, Newcastle, the Central Coast, Wollongong, the Blue Mountains and the Hunter.

IPART Chairman Dr Peter Boxall said the review is considering a range of options for improving the Opal fare structure, with a particular focus on whether fares should be more integrated across the different modes (rail, bus, ferry and light rail).

Almost 1,000 people have so far completed the online survey at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au, which asks for community views about Opal card fares and whether they should be distance based, and whether the same fares should be applied across buses, trains and ferries.

The survey will close on Friday, 28 August, which is also the closing date for formal submissions. Further community views will be sought as the review progresses.

Proposed fares will be released for public comment in December before the final determination on maximum fares is delivered to the NSW Government in March 2016. Any new fares would come into effect on 1 July 2016.

The Issues Paper *Finding the best fare structure for Opal* is available on IPART's website <<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>>.

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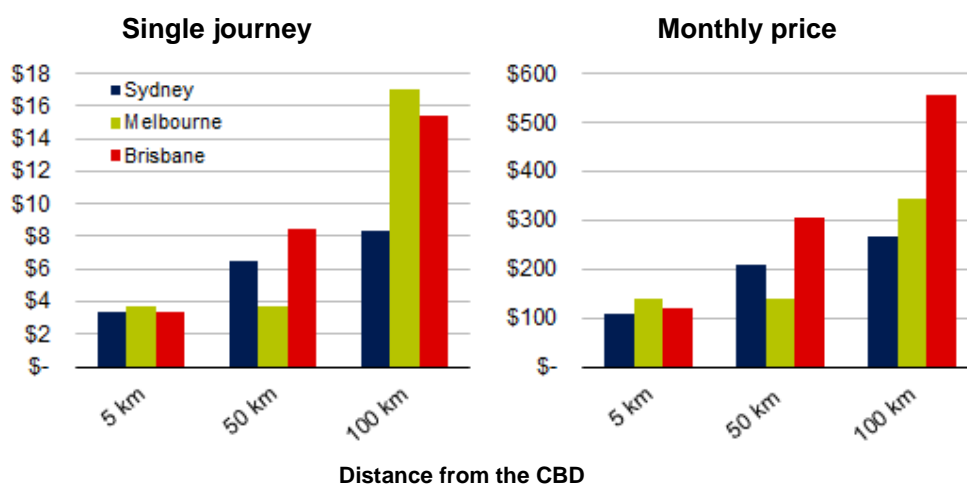
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How Sydney's fares compare

Fares for long distance journeys in Sydney are substantially lower than in other jurisdictions, particularly for train journeys. For example, compared with Sydney:

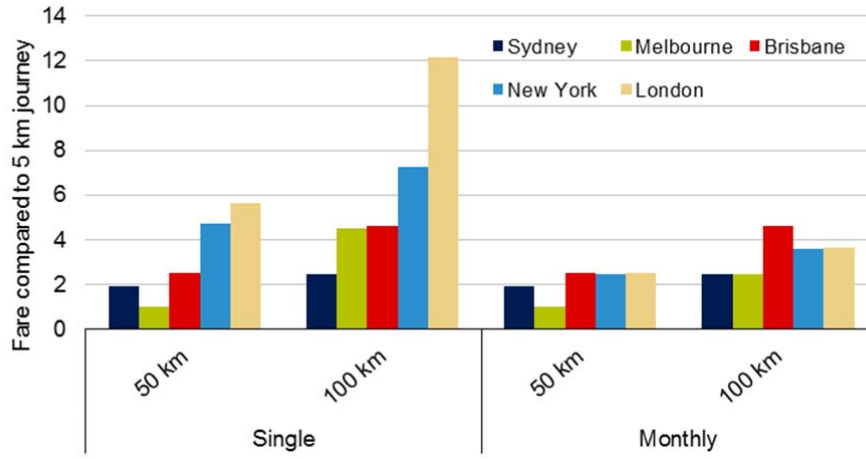
- Fares in Brisbane are 30% more for a 50 km single journey to and from the CBD, and almost double for a 100 km journey.
- Fares in Melbourne for a 50 km single journey to and from the CBD are cheaper than in Sydney by around 40%. However, once distances exceed this Melbourne fares are substantially higher than Sydney fares – a 60 km single journey in Melbourne is 60% more than in Sydney, and double for a 100 km journey.

Long distance rail fares for Australian cities (2015)



In Sydney, a 50 km single journey on a train is around twice as much as a 5 km journey. The fare for a 100 km train journey is only 2.5 times as much as a 5 km journey, even though the passenger has travelled 20 times as far. In London and New York, the ratios are much higher – a 100 km single train journey in New York is 7 times as much as a 5 km metro journey, and in London it is around 12 times more expensive.

Long distance train fare compared to a 5 km journey



Note: A sample of stations are used for New York and London long distance fares.