

Author name: J. Zealey

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Submission: Opal Public Transport - train prices

You don't expect people who live in Newcastle or Bathurst (your examples) to work in Sydney, but there is no mention in your paper of the commuter belt - people like my children who live in Wollongong, or Campbelltown or the Blue Mountains or Gosford because they can't afford Sydney housing prices, but who work in Sydney. Any increase in fares would impact severely on this group of middle and lower paid workers. In addition at current petrol prices, train fares are just competitive with driving. In both time and cost there was very little difference between driving and train from Wollongong to St George when I worked there - but if the balance tips towards the car then clearly this will lead to more congestion and pollution and accidents, all to workers and therefore charged against Workcover

You make no mention of the cost to commercial transport that traffic congestion causes, but clearly the snarl can add hours to driving for truckies, delivery drivers, taxis and buses, and this also needs to be assessed.

I am now retired, and I feel that the fare I pay to go to Sydney is too low, compared to that of working adults. However I think that the government should consider a two tier fare - more for me and other active seniors who choose between driving and train according to convenience, and completely free for those seniors who are, through age or infirmity, no longer able to drive long distance (or at all).