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Submission: I don't agree with the proposal for off-peak bus fares. There is less peak demand for buses than for trains, and the peak demand for some suburban and outer suburban bus routes is around school time (8-9am, 3-4pm). Even if more users switch to travel outside the peaks, there will be still similar number of buses required due to their role as school buses. The money saved by having a uniform bus fare can be used to offset the proposed increase in single tickets of 5%. Given low wage growth and inflation, this increase is likely to be perceived as too steep.

I highly endorse the suggestion for a trial of Opal Connect, for example, the proposal for \$20 a month and discounted fares. University students in particular will benefit, as their travel patterns are frequent but they may not reach the level required for the weekly cap. Another alternative is a ticket in the style of the monthly / quarterly / yearly MyMulti tickets, where users can take unlimited trips after a certain amount has been paid in advance. This is likely to lead to more certainty in budgeting for travel as university students are likely to have varied travel patterns (peak, off-peak, to the city or to part-time work, as well as from home to uni). A special offer could even be introduced where the university offers a ticket for travel for the duration of the semester.