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Submission: I apologise for the brevity of my submission and for the email form. My submission is based on your final report, which I only read in part given time constraints, and on media coverage.

I disagree with, and object to, the proposal to lift a number of single journeys from 8 to 10, until the free travel applies. This proposal disadvantages me greatly in the following way:

I am in full-time "Mon-Fri, 9 to 5" employment (i.e. unable to take advantage of the off-peak travel, and of the proposed discount from 30% to 40%). I have to commute to the CBD 5 days a week by train. I have no opportunity nor time to make shorter journeys in the beginning of the week in order to travel for free at the end of the week.

Under the current 8 journeys 'rule' I do not pay on Fridays, saving about \$6.76 a week. I normally do not travel by public transport before/after work or over the weekend, hence I will have no advantage if the number of journeys is increased to 10 to receive credit/free travel. The general price decrease in single journey (of 8c per journey) is marginal compared to the losses. I am about \$300 worth off under this proposal.

Before Opal, paper tickets offered various degrees of discount depending on whether a weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly ticket was purchased. This option is no longer available. For users of the long-term paper tickets (i.e. yearly), the Opal, with its current fee structure, is a more expensive option. And the Opal under the proposed structure is even more expensive.

I do not have access to statistical data, but I am assuming that quite a significant number of commuters who commute to/from work are in similar circumstances. That is, they come to work 5 days a week, using 10 either single mode or multiple mode repeat journeys, and they do not travel outside of work or on weekends. Hence, they will also be disadvantaged by your proposal.

My suggestion is to:

- a) leave the number of journeys before discount to 8, or, increase it to 9 if the increase is absolutely necessary. This at least give me and people like me one free one way journey a week.
- b) Introduce a loyalty program based on trips made over long periods (i.e. monthly, quarterly, annually). This would work similar to the credit system that is being proposed. That is, after a commuter makes certain number of journeys over a month (quarter, year), their account is credited with a loyalty payment of some sort.

Regards
Alex Barski