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Submission: We would like to petition against the new fare structure recently proposed.

It is a poorly designed fare structure, aiming to get more people back on the road driving and creating more congestion. The idea of correcting the system to help those who are stung by taking multi-mode transport was reasonable, however if the fares have to rise by somewhere close to 50% for some other commuters it is definitely ridiculous.

You have provided the NSW commuters with an opal card system that, when introduced, was meant to make it easier for everyone, be a fairer system and charge people according to the distance & how often they travel, however it seems that it has now "derailed" from its original path. The train/bus service did not improve, yet we will be getting a somewhere close to 30% increase in our weekly fares. Some people the percentage is even higher. Not everyone can afford that increase; consider that public transport is so vital for average workers to be able to get to work and come back home safely every day, an increase like that is inequitable and unsustainable in the long term. Many people (like us) will start to consider the viability for going back to driving to work again, which is like a world class city going backwards.

There are certainly better ways to make this work; we are ready to take one step at a time, however the fares should better reflect the level of service we are getting, and any increase needs to be reasonable. Keeping the pay for 8 trips rule (instead of the 10 proposed) would definitely be a good start. The \$2.50 cap Sunday fare should also be kept, a lot of families are utilising this, taking their kids out for the weekend, or elderlies going out spending on the economy and helping small regional businesses the government ought to support.