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Submission: As a concerned citizen I use bicycle as my main mode of transport. Being an occasional public transport user has become more expensive with the introduction of Opal fares. While I do what I can to support the community by cycling I am punished by fare increases.

My understanding was that the Opal system would protect revenue by reducing fare evasion and increasing efficiency. In which case there should be no need to increase fares for transport users. This is not the reality I face.

Other friends of mine also had the issue that their commute to work has become more expensive because they are not working full time, or in another case where the transport to work is calculated as a more expensive transfer than the previous ticketing allowed.

I hope that IPART will consider that the shift of costs onto transport users should be done where the user is receiving benefit, whereas I am paying more for exactly the same service. Public transport is a monopoly - there are no other options for public transport and without the choice in the service we use there is no scope for travelers to affect the cost of their journey in any choice they make about the provider.

Opal changes have made it more attractive for my partner and I to drive and pay for parking as that becomes cheaper compared to the fares for occasional passengers.