

Hi

The proposed fare increase seems completely illogical. It portrays that the people who are on the panel and drafted the report doesn't use the public transport and the changes are immaterial to the panel whether the people will struggle to pay the additional burden of transport fares.

**(a) Schedule 1 sets out the maximum Fares for Single-Mode Journeys on Opal Services under an Opal Card.**

For Example, I travel around 35 kms in train to reach my office

My current fare is \$4.82 per trip

Revised fare for FY16-17 is \$5.70 per trip

An increase of 18.3% on one trip fare, which is neither following CPI increases nor variation in fuel prices. Further, the western lines are always crowded. We are not getting any additional services.

What is the justification for this huge price increase? Indirectly, opal fare increases hints the public to use cars rather than public transport.

**(d) Schedule 4 sets out the Daily Caps on Fares for Journeys on Opal Services under an Opal Card.**

Current Max Aggregate fare for one day is \$15 per trip

Revised fare for FY16-17 is \$18 per day

An increase of 20% on day cap, which is neither following CPI increases nor variation in fuel prices.

**(e) Schedule 5 sets out the Weekly Caps on Fares for Journeys on Opal Services under an Opal Card.**

Current Daily cap for single weekend day is \$2.5 per trip

Revised fare for FY16-17 is \$7.2 per day

An increase of 188% on daily cap

**Weekly Cap**

(1) Increase from \$60 to \$65; and

(2) The sum of the Fares for the 10 most expensive Journeys taken by the passenger during that Week from first 8 journeys.

For Example,

For Example, I travel around 35 kms in train to reach my office

My current fare is \$4.82 per trip

Revised fare for FY16-17 is \$5.70 per trip

I work 5 days. So currently I pay \$38.56 per week

Now based on the revised tariff, I have to pay \$ 57

An increase of 18.44% and translates to additional \$75 dollars per month

**Summary:**

While salary hikes will be based on CPI increases, proposed transport fare increases are be in the range of 15-25% which seems illogical. Further the proposed transport fare increases is neither following CPI increases nor variation in fuel prices. Further, the western lines are always crowded. We are not getting any additional services. What is the justification for this huge price increase?

We understand that we as public don't have an option rather than using the public transport. But that doesn't mean we have to accept these drastic fare increases. In addition, if the panel is worried about the loss of revenue of \$150 million due to benefits passed on to public, then the panel should focus on reducing the loss of revenue through marginal price increases rather than imposing addition \$300-400 million burden on the public.

Indirectly, opal fare increases also hints the public to use cars rather than public transport which in turn will directly reduce the transport revenue.

I hope you will consider our concerns and views. Please apologise if I used any inappropriate words.

Thanks & Regards