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Submission: IPART has to seriously consider the performance standards on Intercity travel. The Newcastle/Central coast infrastructure and rolling stock has not improved since the introduction of the OSCAR cars. These cars are a poor way to travel long distances. The Central Coast line is always subject to lengthy delays on a regular basis due to faulty rollingstock. The notion to increase opal fares and reduce the free trips combined with the poor service will only force more commuters on the road. My household has three city based workers and at 65 a weeks that totals \$195.00 in train fares.

It would be far cheaper and faster to drive close to the CBD and commute that way.

Our rail network is third worl compared to Europe and even India. Those government invested in infrastructure whilst our government just maintains a 1920's infrastructure. If high speed rail was introduced I would not hesitate in paying higher. Long distance fares should be frozen until significant improvements are made.

Also change the opal tap off/on timeframes and introduce zone based fares like other cities