

Author name: Anonymous

Date of submission: Thursday, 4 February 2016

Submission: Under the proposal fares for most 5 day a week workers are going to increase 10 times more than the current inflation rate. I have calculated my fare will increase from 36.00 to 46.90 per week or 30.27%. This is not affordable. Also you are intending on having a system that involves paying for trips up front and being reimbursed at the end of the week. This is not affordable as your plan shows. I work most Saturdays. I will have to be topping up the card by an additional 26 Dollars a week. which is money I do not have. I have worked out that I would need to put double my fare on my card for the first week then wait for the reimbursement and put more on each week there after.

The answer is similar to what we have now. As you know after 8 trips all trips are free, the only way to get around people taking short trips to take advantage of this is loophole is to charge people extra (the fare difference between the cheaper trips and the more expensive trip to be charged after the initial 8 trips are taken. This way after my 8 trips are taken the rest are free and we do not require extra funds unless we take a trip that is more expensive than the initial 8 in my case I would only incur the additional fare over the \$4.69 I have already paid. Eg if an additional trip cost was \$6.00, then my fare would be \$1.31. Another Example - A person has made 8 trips 4 trips at \$2.10 4 trips at \$4.50. They then make a ninth trip which would normally cost \$6.00. In this case they would now be charged \$3.90 (difference between cheapest and new trip cost). They then make a tenth trip which would normally cost \$3.50. They would now be charged \$1.40 (difference again).

As for Sundays - the \$2.50 Sunday trip was in place well before the Opal Card and should stay in place. It is encouraging people to use public transport. If you raise it to 7.20 as proposed, you will end up with a lot of empty buses, trains and ferries and people will drive everywhere.

Perhaps too the expensive trips being charged should be reduced to 7, after all everyone in my area does not have access to trains, and on October 4 last year we were hit with a 30-60 minute travel time increase by being forced to transfer at Wynyard to Buses which don't operate at Night or Pay \$1,100 a year by using trains. At least the proposal removes the extra train cost, but it will increase fares to a point where the extra money required will have to come from somewhere (maybe I only have 1 meal a day not 2)