

Re OPAL Card review by IPART 2015/2016

The Ipart review does not recognise that the introduction of the OPAL card has done away with returns, travel ten, travel passes, weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly, in fact all term tickets and the discounts applicable to them. This was a government decision at the introduction of OPAL

All fares are now single trips and are charged at every change of mode. Travel across Sydney, ie not to/from CBD, inevitably involves change of mode and thus multiple fares, despite straight line determination which makes little difference to most fares,.

Rail trips are now also subject to TWO peak hours per day, morning and evening on week days, another fare increase for many travellers. Return travel in a day makes it difficult, if not impossible to avoid one or both peaks, hence another fare grab.

Weekly tickets have always been charged at the rate of just a tiny bit more than FOUR days of return travel, now the Ipart proposal is for FIVE days of return travel, this is excessive and will increase fares so much that car travel is so much more an option.

The Seniors Card has very few advantages in NSW apart from the access to the \$2.50 capped travel ticket/Seniors Opal Card. Now access to this too is threatened to be abolished or the daily cap to be substantially increased under this review.

This review is just a grab for more fares now that the alternatives have been abolished and that no alternative exists apart from single fares.