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Submission: While I understand the reasoning behind making people pay for their most expensive public transport trips, in order to ensure people pay for what they actually use instead of "gaming the system" and getting regular commutes for free, I firmly believe that raising the maximum weekly price will be unfair to some of the more disadvantaged customers who are already paying the maximum fare.

I have commuted from the Central Coast to various parts of Sydney by train and bus for many years, as do many residents of the Central Coast. People live on the Central Coast because housing is affordable to people on lower incomes, however they commute to Sydney because few jobs are available here; as such, commuting for such long distances is a way of life for many people here who do not have other realistic alternatives. I use public transport primarily because I feel it is more environmentally friendly than driving a car for so many kilometers, but also because it is more affordable. People who commute from regional areas all week are already paying the maximum weekly cap, so are not major contributors to the problem of money lost from "gaming the system" by taking lots of small trips early in the week. Raising the maximum prices does not affect the issue of people paying for fewer or shorter trips than they actually take; it does affect the customers who are ALREADY paying the maximum prices. These are typically people who live far away from work due to financial reasons, putting further financial stress on people already commuting long distances in order to live in a more affordable area. It will also make public transport a less attractive option from purely a financial point of view; your predicted fare increases will make public transport (especially for long commutes) an increasingly expensive option in comparison with the alternative, which are private cars carrying only one or two people between Sydney and areas such as Newcastle, Wollongong and the Blue Mountains every day during peak hours. This model of commute should not be encouraged as it is bad for the environment and causes massive congestion, stress on public infrastructure and an increase in commute times. Public transport should be available as a viable and attractive alternative to discourage such car use. A car should not be a cheaper alternative to public transport. Please reconsider your pricing structure for people who commute long distances by public transport. I want to continue to use public transport not only from a financial perspective but also an environmental one, as this is an issue that is very important to me. I don't want it to become even less attractive to people where I live than it already is.