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Submission: 1. Pricing is based on 10 km zones but that entrenches advantage to people living in well serviced areas, however flat pricing makes short trips expensive and lessens the benefits of reduced motor vehicle congestion

RECOMMENDATION: The social costs of pollution and congestion warrant flat low pricing to encourage long distance trips (being more economical) and short journeys (as public transport is less convenient than a car but helps relieve congestion).

2. It seems a ridiculous amount of extra complexity has been created with the Rules for Opal cards. It may be anecdotal but I have heard people say it is all too hard to catch a bus or train now.

RECOMMENDATION: Simplify OPAL CARDS with the above recommendations and restore the travelling public's faith in the system.

3.
4. People choose to go from one place to another for work, education etc, but have no control over what forms of public transport will make that trip.

RECOMMENDATION: The social costs of pollution and congestion warrant pricing evenly across trains buses and ferries etc with no as changing modes of transport is not the reason people do it. It is because that is the means offered by the government.

5. OPAL cards are only sold by anyone EXCEPT state rail or bus employees.

RECOMMENDATION: Forget the blatant party politics and sell OPAL CARDS and recharges on Stations and buses/bus stops.

6. Unused balances on Opal cards are difficult to retrieve. Holding masses of old card records with small balances is inefficient too.

RECOMMENDATION: Donate unused balances to charity/schools/sports clubs. Maybe allow them to do an old OPAL card round up for the small change on each.

7. Students and Seniors/Pensions are being forced to give their identity to allow Opal cards to make surveillance of the movements. Parents with multiple children/students are forced to buy multiple cards and maintain multiple balances for even the most occasional use. Student Opal Cards are being terminated even when the student is returning which means the old balance must be claimed and moved to a new OPAL card. Students must still carry a valid student identification card so the OPAL card is not proof of eligibility anyway. RECOMMENDATION: Allow Students and Seniors/Pensions to have anonymous OPAL CARDS.

8. There is talk of Seniors/Pensions being charged more than \$2.50. It is a huge benefit to everyone's safety to keep them off the roads.

RECOMMENDATION: Leave Seniors/Pensioner cards at \$2.50.