

Author name: B. Davis

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Submission: I am opposed to IPART's recommendation concerning seniors access to the concessional Opal card which would disqualify a very substantial portion of current Gold Opal card holders from access to the fully concessional rate that has applied for many years, and confine this benefit to only those eligible for the age pension.

The proposed change will put public transport out of the reach of many seniors and discourage others from taking advantage of the current concessional rate which permits them to enjoy the simple pleasure of travelling to the more distant destinations accessible by public transport in the Sydney region. There is not much going for many self-funded retirees these days, and the travel opportunities available through the Gold Opal Card is something we greatly value .

Also the revenue likely to be raised by increasing the daily cap will be far less than forecast should, as I suspect, travel by seniors declines substantially. It is also worth noting that most seniors travel occurs at off peak times when buses and trains are under utilised, meaning that the public transport system incurs no additional cost as a result of this concession for seniors.