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Date of submission: Monday, 25 January 2016

Submission: My submission refers to the proposed change from 'first 8 trips' to '10 most expensive trips'. I have three reasons why I think this is an unfair and illogical change.

1. When paper tickets were still in operation, I could buy a weekly ticket for my commute. This weekly ticket would be approximately 80% of the cost of buying a return ticket every day. So if you were a regular commuter you generally only had to pay for 8 of your usual 10 trips for the week (and any weekend travel on that same journey was also free). This was not a 'loop hole' where people were abusing the system. It was the clear design of the system and has been for as long as I can remember (I'm only 24). I recognize that the opal 'first 8 trips' system is open to abuse - but to change it to 10 most expensive trips means that somebody who uses the train system for their weekly commute will be paying 20% more than historical levels - that's a pretty big punishment for regular commuters.

2. I think there's good reason to have incentives for regular travel. I know when I had a weekly ticket or the opal cards 8 trips, I would aim to catch public transport every day. But often I could be tempted to drive instead (despite the poorer environmental outcome of a single passenger car), because it was often quicker to drive AND cheaper. My petrol expenditure for a return trip was far less than a return trip in either the opal or paper ticket system. However, I was often motivated to get the train every day by the 'free' journey I would receive on Friday if I did. By charging for the 10 most expensive trips, you remove this incentive and I can imagine it becoming easier for people to just drive when they are running late or not in the mood for public transport.

3. We need people to decide to use public transport - it's better for the environment and city congestion. But it's hard to convince people that it's a good idea if it's slower, less comfortable AND more expensive than a commute by car.

My solution would be to charge people for their 8 most expensive trips. That way regular commuters still get a discount (a free 5th day) and people who try to get free trips by taking lots of short ones, still have to pay for the most expensive trips they took.