

Public Transport Fares in Sydney and Surrounds

I have a few points for consideration.

1. I believe the integrated fare structure is a good idea. Although I don't use integrated transport, it seems to be a fairer system and could encourage me to catch a bus to the train station rather than driving as I do now.
2. As a regular user of the transport network, I believe I am one of the many frequent users that the system relies on to maintain the network. i.e. we provide the bulk of the fares paid to run the network. As a result, I was always annoyed by the increase in fares I had to pay when moving from a quarterly/yearly ticket price to the Opal system as I only saved a little over a dollar per week instead of three weeks free per quarter. The only remaining reward for a frequent user is the free travel after 8 trips. To me it was always a more sensible (but slightly more complex) to pay for the 8 most expensive trips (rather than the first 8 trips) and have the rest be free. This system would still reward the users who use the system the most and represent the majority of the fees paid (which help support the system), while removing the seeming loop hole of the existing system. I believe this will enforce the intent of the original opal system rewarding frequent users without allowing for abuse.
3. The more than doubling of the family cost for Sunday travel will discourage me from using the system. My family liked to take trips on Sundays for something different. Now I suspect you will have emptier trains on Sundays making the operation on Sundays even less efficient.