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Date of submission: Monday, 21 December 2015

Submission: Hi.

Sydney public transport is some of the most over-priced in the world and our roads are some of the most clogged during peak hours. Rising fares and slashing free trips will only encourage more cars onto the roads and discourage people from using public transport during off-peak times anyway.

I agree that fares should be integrated across modes of transport and the user only charged for the total distance travelled, and this should be as soon as possible now that a lot of buses no longer travel to the Sydney CBD, requiring mode changes and greater expense for city-visiting bus users. In fact, it's a terrible display this hasn't been done already.

However, getting rid of the free Opal trips after 8 journeys is a bad idea, as is increasing the Sunday \$2.50 cap. These incentives increase public transport usage in off-peak times and help keep cars off the roads on weekends, when roads are these days consistently clogged. Also letting people catch public transport for free on Friday and Saturday nights is a public health issue as this discourages drink-driving and makes our roads safer for everyone.

Increasing the weekly cap above \$60 is also a bad idea Sydney public transport is already some of the most the most expensive in the world. For example, in New York a weekly MTA pass is US\$31 and in Los Angeles it is US\$25. Have you ever met anyone who thinks Sydney public transport is cheap or even affordable?

Increases in costs or decreases in free trips will only encourage people to drive or bicycle more, increasingly clogging our roads and leading to more and more bicycle accidents (I recently went back to catching trains on a daily basis after a serious bicycle accident, but if fares go up I will put my safety at risk again and get back on my bike).

Please consider the personal safety of the community and encourage the use of public transport by keeping fare increases affordable and retaining the current off-peak incentivising measures.

Regards,
-Dylan Behan