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Submission: The release of this report over the holiday period has resulted in limited publicity and discussion. Opal could have used email addresses to alert people, but did not.

As for the proposals relating to Seniors, the government should be doing all it can to encourage use of public transport, given population growth and increased density in Sydney. The marginal cost of using public transport in off-peak times must be very low as some basic service needs to be provided at those times. Apart from the economics of it (and promises), there are good non economic reasons to encourage public travel by seniors (health and safety in particular).

Some states already do that for part of the day.

Most seniors do well if their income is adjusted for inflation but the proposed increase amounts to 260% compared with a CPI increase of 30%.

Retirees are already facing sharp increases in utility bills & the NSW government is advocating a 50% increase in the GST.

If anything is done to what Senior card holders are charged, it would be more defensible to increase the daily charge in line with the CPI, and restrict usage to off-peak times.

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