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Date of submission: Tuesday, 2 February 2016

Submission: We strongly object to the proposal for a substantial (40%) hike in the Gold Opal Card fares to \$4.00 a day, and in particular to the exclusion of retirees on self-funded pensions / superannuation from the Gold Card.

We are self-funded retirees - \$9.00 a day each for us to travel on Sydney buses, trains and light rail will put travel by public transport out of our reach. We depend on cheap bus, train and light rail travel EVERY DAY to go shopping and visiting friends and for recreation visits - we are not prepared to spend \$9.00 a day (\$63 a week) on public transport around Sydney - that would be nearly 20% of our weekly allocated self-funded pension.

We will either not go out or add to traffic congestion by taking the car. There is likely to be a substantial reduction in retirees using public transport, negating an anticipated increased income to the govt. This price hike and in particular discriminating against self-funded retirees by depriving us of access to the Gold Card is OUT of STEP with other states and overseas policies on concession fares, and should not occur. We have no objection to a modest increase in the daily Gold Card rate - say 30% to \$3.50 - since it has been at \$2.50 for some time,

Signed, Ian and Kathy Pickles, [REDACTED]