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Submission: I am appalled by a lot of things, but the rail service in the Illawarra is at the top of the list. My submission covers two things: We have unreliable trains, a ridiculously slow trip to Sydney and hideously uncomfortable seats, dirty, smelly carriages, the list goes on. Aghast that fares are to be increased when the service has deteriorated.

The second and probably more on topic is the proposed increase in fares. I have just gained my Seniors card and really appreciate the opportunity to travel to medical appointments in Sydney and/or visit my grandchildren for a reasonable cost. I am by no means wealthy, but have worked hard and long and feel that my Seniors Opal Card was a small reward for that. Before seniors card I was paying around \$18 for a return trip to Sydney. Now I pay \$2.50 and not only is that a big saving, but it provides far more incentive for me to use the train/bus system than drive.

I am understandably angry and disappointed in equal measures. I am not alone in expressing these sentiments.