

# To: Dr Peter J Boxall, Chairman IPART

Dear Dr Boxall,

## Submission Re: Proposed changes to OPAL GOLD Card entitlement – IPART report

The purpose of this submission is to strongly oppose the recent IPART draft recommendation to remove eligibility to OPAL Gold card concessions for self-funded retirees which would increase the daily travel cap from \$2.50 to \$9.00 (a massive 260% increase !!!!! far ....far ... far.... higher than any reasonable increase related to CPI).

The main facts and points of this submission are:

- We are self-funded retirees aged 65 and 67 years.
- We are not pension card or war widow/er concession holders.
- We both hold NSW Senior Cards.
- We currently hold Gold OPAL cards – the main benefit of which is the daily travel fare cap of \$2.50 – an excellent scheme.
- We often travel together. The IPART recommendations would therefore raise the joint cap for two people to \$18 per day !!
- \$18 buys quite a lot of fuel!! ....so the net effect of the proposed change for us (\$18 joint daily cap) would, without any doubt, be **a much greater use by us of our private car** with all the resulting traffic congestion, parking **congestion** and **carbon pollution** implications.
- The proposed changes for self-funded retirees would effectively make the NSW Seniors Card **USELESS** for us and 100s of thousands of similar retirees across NSW. It would greatly diminish the OPAL card benefit overall – ie we would use our car much more.
- The proposed changes to Gold OPAL card are highly discriminatory against and disrespectful of, self-funded retirees – a group we would have thought would be a key constituency of any real Liberal Party government – a point which will weigh very heavily with us, and no doubt, many others, in voting at the next NSW elections!! A **GOLDEN** opportunity for the opposition **LABOR** and **GREENS** to run with !!

In view of the above points we request that IPART change its recommendations to enable senior self-funded retirees to be granted continuing access to the full OPAL GOLD CARD benefits under all future travel “reforms”.

We would appreciate your response.

Yours sincerely

**Jon and June Henchy**

22 December 2015