

Your draft report on more efficient and integrated fares appears aimed centrally at removing the genius of the present Opal system fare structure; the Weekly Travel Reward earned by users after they qualify by taking 8 trips on any mode.

As a public transport user for most of my life in Sydney, I felt gouged by the My Multi paper ticket tiered pricing structure. It delivered very poor value to the user, for grossly high cost.

Opal's Weekly Travel Reward was for me and many other users, a revelation. It has resulted in significant savings, because I am able to qualify for it most weeks. You admit at paragraph 2.6 that frequent discounts and weekly price cap "may also encourage customers to increase their use of public transport, by making it more affordable for those who use it more often and/or make more expensive journeys".

I thought this was the aim of government: indeed Minister Berejiklian stated that quite often when she introduced the Opal system and indicated she was happy for people to qualify for their free travel, however they chose.

Now you propose to take that away; what you propose to replace it with - the Weekly Travel Credit - is a very poor relation, and designed you say, to make use of the system more efficient.

But it will not encourage greater use of public transport, it will not minimise the impact on the customer and it will not do anything to encourage efficient use of public transport, unless by that you mean people using public transport less than they currently do - especially on weekends.

That will be the outcome of your proposal to remove the Weekly Travel Reward.

I would maintain the Weekly Travel Reward, but vary it so that the 8 trips can only be counted from the two most expensive trips taken on each of, at least, the first 4 days of the week; after that, the entitlement to free travel remains for the balance of the week.

This would address adequately, your concern about people taking trips they don't need to, earlier in the week and maintain the incentive to not use the car, especially on the weekend, where there is a public transport alternative available.

It would also recover some of the revenue you appear to believe is being lost by the present Travel Reward arrangements.

I would also maintain the Sunday cap for the above reasons, but increase it to \$5.00.