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Submission: I am a regular rail commuter, travelling on a Monday to Friday between West Ryde and North Ryde stations via Epping station. I often make bus and train trips in the same general area. I wish to comment on some of the aspects of the fare structure proposal.

1. I SUPPORT the proposed changes to the fare structure that will make multi-mode travel cheaper. The current fare structure was a major discouragement for living in places that are not walking distances to a train stations. In addition there are situations where I am discouraged from a taking the quickest public transport route because it will be more expensive due to being multi-mode.

2. I AM NEUTRAL on the change from track distance to straight line distance and paying for the longest distance between any two tap on/off points in your journey. Combining this change with the change to paying for 10 rather than 8 journeys will result in my weekly fare remaining the same. However for most regular rail commuters this will not be true. There are appear to be few combinations of train stations where the straight line distance is significantly shorter than the track distance, which would result in a fare reduction.

I understand the need to have people pay for their travel rather than game the system through early week, short bus trips.

3. I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposal to pay for all travel during the week and then receive a refund. This will result in people being required to keep a buffer of money on their Opal card for travel that will be free for them anyway. It would be a disincentive for me to take public transport on the weekend; travel that will be free but I still have to pay for before getting a refund. I am also concerned about the ability of the Opal infrastructure to perform this refund. Will this not require that all refund details for every single card be pushed to every single reader across the network for Monday morning? Fixed readers almost always work, but the readers on buses are regularly not working.

If the proposal of paying for the most expensive ten journeys is retained, I would propose a system where you really only pay for the ten most expensive journeys. The Opal card would maintain an internal list of its ten most expensive journeys for that week. You would only need to pay the difference from your card balance if a new journey that week was a new entry in that top 10. I am however unsure if this is actually technically feasible with the current infrastructure.