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Submission: I refer specifically to the proposed change to the current arrangement where travel is at no cost after 8 journeys.

I do not agree with the proposed change, for the following reasons:

1. The no cost travel after 8 journeys takes pressure off the roads as a person who is able to travel on public transport at no cost for the rest of the week is very likely to do so rather than drive, especially into the city and incur the cost of petrol and parking. I agree with Gladys, the Minister, that residents in Sydney should be encouraged to take public transport as much as possible. The cost of congested roads to the motorist and the environment is significant.
2. A person has to make a great effort to take advantage of short journeys in order to complete 8 journeys ASAP. Very few people working in the city will have the ability to take time off work, albeit in short stretches, and have ready access to two bus stops which are in close proximity. The person should not be stopped from doing so which would be the result of the proposed change. Aldi should not be banned from trading just because some customers desert Coles and Woolworths to take advantage of Aldi's low costs.
3. It is a furphy that it is costing the tax payer a lot of money, as Mr Harmstoff has said. Whilst it is correct, education and health are costing the tax payer even more. With education, everything is virtually free. The fees paid by parents cover even less percentage wise. However, these are public services, and are rightly funded by taxes paid by me and the rest of my fellow NSW workers and businesses.
4. I whole-heartedly support Gladys' comment made a while ago that it matters not if some commuters take advantage of certain fare structures so long as they are encouraged to travel on public transport.
5. Congested roads in Sydney are a high cost for not just drivers but NSW tax payers and the environment as well.