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Date of submission: Tuesday, 2 February 2016

Submission: To Whom it may concern

I and my partner are self-funded retirees living a modest life-style.

We are appalled at the suggestion that our right to be eligible the Gold Opal Card and be a beneficiary of its benefits are under threat.

We use public transport as much as we can in our day to day life for shopping and general getting around as it is affordable under the current regime. We are also passionate believers in the provision and use of affordable public transport for many reasons and use it where ever possible rather than drive..

My partner and I also use the card a lot to travel into the city to take advantage of a free days outing at the Art Gallery, MCA, Botanic Gardens and similar entertainments. The card also provides access to a nice ferry ride to Manly or Cockatoo Island for a picnic, or amble along the beach. We also enjoy going for little jaunts to the Central Coast, Newcastle and also inland on day trips.

The access to the benefits provided by the Gold Opal Card and a safe public transport system lets us enjoy these simple pleasures at an affordable cost.

If the combined price of our daily transport were to rise from \$5 to \$18 for a day as mooted we would not be able to afford these simple pleasures; it would also be more economic in many instances for us to consider driving as an alternative transport mode which I would rather not do.

Please do not remove the access to affordable public transport that people like us enjoy currently by changing the eligibility criteria for a Gold Opal Card.

Yours
Mark Fox