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Submission: I refer to the recommendation of raising fares on public transport. My husband and I have tried to be regular public transport users. When we travel overseas we prefer it to car hire. We currently live in the Newcastle cbd and have now begun driving to Sydney again because the rail line takes longer now than 50 years ago and double the drive time however it is currently cheaper than driving. If public transport is to compete with private it has to be safe, cheaper and under double the time to travel by car. Perhaps an upper \$ limit cap per week rather than number of trips would encourage more users and prevent misuse. Also in my days of train travel out of 50 trips I may have seen 1 guard. A real incentive to skip paying given you can exit most stations without barriers. After 10 pm or so at Epping the barriers are even left open. Before raising fares ensure all users pay to raise the revenue before you penalise honest users otherwise only the free loaders will continue to use it. In Belgium they have guards selling tickets getting on and off every second train - no graffiti, clean, safe travel! We need to get serious about promoting public transport as a real alternative to car travel.