

Submission to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

Attention: Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPARP)

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Date of submission: 04 Feb 2016

Submission: Suggested alternative for Section 1.3 Discounts for frequent customers.

There is strong media attention on how a minority of commuters has misused the Opal card by making the first eight trips per week as low as possible in order to enjoy the free travel for the rest of the week.

I understand that the Section 1.3 Discounts for frequent customers aims at the above scenarios and has indicated two possible solutions:

Quote:

- 1) The total expenditure on Adult Opal fares in that week minus the cost of the 10 most expensive journeys in that week; or
- 2) The total expenditure on Adult Opal fares in that week minus a weekly cap amount of \$65 from July 2016, increasing by \$5 in each year of the determination.

Unquote.

As you are aware, the majority of commuters are using the public transport for work-related travelling. These commuters are doing no more than 10 trips per week. This means that the abovementioned solutions provide absolutely no incentive to them. If implemented, it would inadvertently push them away from public transport and back to the congested roads.

I now put forward my suggestion for your consideration – The total expenditure on Adult Opal fares per week will be determined under the following criteria:

No of trips	Comments
From 1 st to 9 th trips (inclusive)	No discount. Commuters will have to pay for the first 9 trips in full.
From 10 th to 14 th trips (inclusive)	If the total expenditure in that week is less than or equal to the maximum weekly cap fare, then a 20% discount of the total expenditure in that week will be credited back to commuter's Opal card.
From 15 th trips onward	If the total expenditure in that week is less than or equal to the maximum weekly cap fare, then a 25% discount of the total expenditure in that week will be credited back to commuter's Opal card.
Maximum daily fare	The current daily cap will be increased from \$15 to \$18.
Maximum weekly fare	The current weekly cap will be increased from \$65 to \$75.

With the above suggestion, the fare for each journey (regardless of public transportation modes) that commuters make during the week (Monday to Sunday) would be debited from their Opal card when they tap off. At the end of the week (i.e. midnight on Sunday), commuters would receive an appropriate credit to their Opal card if their travel patterns are eligible for a discount.

I am adamant that this suggestion is a win-win solution both for the government and general commuters. My suggestion will change the mentality of some commuters from free travel to discounted travel after certain trips in the week.

In addition, I propose that the Sunday full fare of \$2.50 should be reviewed and, if possible, consider amended to reflect my suggestion below:

- The Sunday full fare for concession and children remain unchanged (i.e. at \$2.50).
- The Sunday full fare for adults will be increased from \$2.50 to \$5.00.
- The Sunday full fare would be extended to cover Saturday and Public Holidays.
- During Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays, a surcharge of \$1.00 per vehicle per trip if they are using any toll ways within the state. This will encourage people to use public transport in non-business days as opposed to driving their own cars.

Thank you for considering my submission about the Opal fare structure. Even more thanks if you would adopt my suggestions and fix the associated public transportation problems.