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Submission: Of major world capitals, Berlin covers an area, has first world wage and benefit rates comparable to Sydney's and has a similar population. To an overseas visitor from Sydney, BVG appears to run a transport system most of us would be pleased to use. What strikes a visitor is how few staff one encounters with no disadvantage to the level of service or feelings of safety one might experience.

Has Ipart sought to see what lessons can be learnt from this service?

While it is probably not part of Ipart's role to examine the service on individual lines, it would be unfortunate if the question of the airport line fares was not considered. It seems that for political reasons we must always expect that service will be more expensive but action urgently needs to be taken to reduce road traffic congestion at the airport. When several people are travelling together by train, the total cost soon loses out to travel by car. Brisbane has made some progress in this respect by giving concessions when people travel together. I suggest this issue be considered as part of the review.