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Submission: I do not support the proposed changes to the opal card structure for train services for the following reasons: The "Perverse" incentive you refer to in the draft report was an incentive offered by the Government as a gimmick for consumers to flock to the Opal Card over previous paper based tickets. The former Transport Minister now Treasurer spent night after night on major news bulletins encouraging people to find the savings to be had using the Opal Card. Now that the travelling public have risen to the Treasurers challenge and found the savings, the Government now wants this to cease because it is losing money.

The proposed changes offer little incentive for commuters to continue using the opal card, and public transport in general. Previously transport fair increases rose in line with the inflation rate and IPART approved fare increases with the proviso that services must improve. Based on this assumption, the proposed increase in fares are neither justified nor fair.

There have been no significant improvements to services on the Richmond Line since electrification of the line in 1991 apart from the duplication of the line to Schofields. The journey still takes up to 1 hour and 23 minutes between Richmond Station and Central Station. PM Peak hour services are continually late or cancelled due to "mechanical faults" which in itself is an untruth, especially when a train that is terminated due to "mechanical faults" is seen back in service going in the opposite direction fully loaded 30 minutes later. In the last 12 months there have been numerous occasions where it has taken me 3 hours to get from Parramatta to Richmond in addition to the random cancellations outlined above due to mechanical faults on "new" trains.

The current two tier fare structure of the train network punishes working families and singles who have to pay more to travel to and from work. There is no justification that a journey commencing at 8.55am costs more than a journey that commences at 9.01am.

There should be an inquiry into the number of people who are working full time and travelling to work on \$2.50 fares. If you are going to stick it to people who have taken advantage of the Government endorsed incentive to save money and who actually pay full fares (even if they do conduct phantom journeys), why should people who are earning a full adult wage be allowed to travel at the subsidised rate of \$2.50 while the rest of us pay full fare.

The proposed changes to Opal Card are unfair, and will cause financial detriment to those who utilise services the most. The proposals also demonstrate the Government's contempt towards the travelling public. I implore you to leave the current incentives in place as there have been no improvements to reliability, increases in services, or decreases in travel times that warrant me paying more money to travel to and from work.