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Submission: The OPAL travel concession is a benefit from a social aspect for seniors. I will travel into the city to see a show, shop or meet friends but will not drive there. Taking away this benefit will deprive seniors of the opportunity to travel to the heart of Sydney and keep in touch with the ever-changing cityscape . It might sound trivial but it is not. The concession is also helpful for day excursions with friends. Again it has extreme social benefits. I do not have grandchildren but many people I know will find the cost of travel to visit them will be prohibitive if the concession is removed. As a self funded retiree there are no other government benefits available to me. Surely the cost to government to continue to support the concession for seniors must be seen in terms of the social benefits not just the direct \$ cost.

Additional points to consider: isolation of seniors may indirectly increase medical and other costs to government; seniors often travel outside the peak times and finally government is trying to increase the use of public transport so a concession for seniors is a good incentive.

Even if the direct \$ cost is examined, in the overall scheme of the State budget, it is minimal.

Please maintain the travel concession for all seniors.