

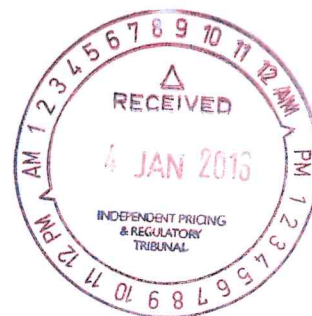
Ryan Park MP

Member for Keira



23 December, 2015

Dr Peter Boxall
Chair
IPART
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop
NSW 1240



Dear Dr Boxall

I write in relation to the draft proposal for public transport fares that was released by IPART this week and some of the concerns I have as to the impact such changes would have on long distance commuters.

As someone who represents the regional community of the Illawarra, which is home to more than 20,000 residents who commute each day mainly to central Sydney and the outlining suburbs I am greatly concerned as to the financial impost these changes will have.

For example a person travelling from Wollongong to Central will be asked to pay an additional \$260 a year, whilst a similar increase will be passed on to commuters from the Blue Mountains and Central Coast.

It seems ironic that these changes are being considered when over 12000 people across the Illawarra have signed a petition expressing their concerns about the current South Coast timetable and the poor service it offers manly local commuters, an issue I have raised hundreds of times with the Government over the last two years.

It is important to remember that these residents are often on lower wages than those closer to the city and rely on public transport to access employment opportunities not available to them closer to where they live.

In addition there are very hefty increases for commuters coming from places such as Shellharbour to Wollongong in the order of \$459 and again this is similar to increases proposed for those travelling between Woy Woy and Tuggerah and Faulconbridge to Penrith.

Such increases seem completely at odds with the Government's desire to increase patronage on public transport and to ease congestion on our roads.

I am also concerned about the removal of the very popular Sunday Fun day ticketing structure designed to provide affordable public transport for families who want to enjoy some precious time together and explore other parts of NSW.

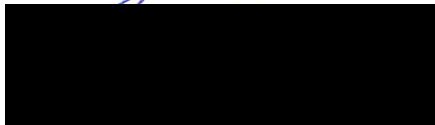


These fares encouraged people to get out and about and contribute to the visitor economy that the NSW Government often talks about as being critical to the prosperity of many small regional economies across NSW.

Likewise any changes as outlined to the Pensioner Excursion Ticket would go against commitments made by this Government to keep the ticket price at \$2.50 even after the January 1 rollout of the Gold Opal Card to replace the existing Pensioner Excursion Ticket.

I urge IPART to review the current proposal to ensure that public transport remains affordable and accessible for those in the community who need it most.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Ryan Park.

Ryan Park MP
Member for Keira
Shadow Minister for Transport and Infrastructure
Shadow Minister for the Illawarra