



**alex**greenwich  
MEMBER FOR SYDNEY

19 January 2016

Dr Peter Boxall  
IPART Chair  
PO Box K35  
HAYMARKET POST SHOP NSW 1240

Dear Dr Boxall

### **Public Transport Fares**

I write to provide feedback on IPART's 'More efficient, more integrated Opal fares' draft report on public transport fares to apply from July 2016.

A number of constituents have contacted me raising concerns about some proposals acting as a disincentive to public transport use, and I share their view that fares should be structured to make travel on public transport attractive, convenient and inexpensive.

The IPART report proposes an integrated fare structure for passengers who change transport modes on the same journey. The current arrangements that penalise people who have to change modes is unfair, particularly since the 4 October bus route changes require the great majority of passengers travelling to the CBD by bus to change services or modes. This will become more important when the CBD and South East Light Rail service is operating.

Constituents who have contacted me strongly support this proposal and I have previously requested this change.

I support proposals to increase the off-peak discount on trains which would encourage off-peak travel for those who can travel at these times. I also support changing fare bands on trains to straight-line distance rather than track distance, which is fairer for those who have limited direct transport options.

A significant number of constituents have raised concerns about the impact of increasing the Gold Opal Card cap from \$2.50 to \$3.60 for pensioners or \$9 for Seniors Card holders. I share their concern that the proposed concession fare rises would discourage public transport use and discourage older people from leaving their home. There are important community and public health benefits from pensioners and seniors getting out and engaging in social, recreation and volunteering activities and older people using off-peak public transport do not burden the system. I am concerned that these changes risk older people's wellbeing and that community organisations that rely on volunteers who use these tickets will suffer from increased fares. I oppose these increases.



(2)

I am concerned about proposed increases to paper ticket prices, which would make getting around Sydney more difficult and costly for tourists and visitors or those who use public transport infrequently. When more than one person must travel, private transport may be a cheaper option. While there is a clear need to encourage frequent users to use Opal Cards, the ticketing system should not discourage visitors and infrequent users from taking public transport as this has significant economic, social and health impacts.

***Could you please ensure final changes to fares are fair and do not discourage public transport use?***

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich  
**Member for Sydney**