

The Secretary
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Review of Public Transport Fares
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240

4 February 2016

Dear Sir or Madam

Draft Report: More efficient, more integrated Opal fares

The Glebe Society is a long established community group representing the interests of nearly 400 members in Glebe and Forest Lodge. We appreciate the opportunity to make a submission on the draft report.

We are concerned about the following draft recommendations that have been made in the report, namely:

- The Opal Gold card should only be available for those that hold a pensioner or a NSW war widow/ers card and the daily cap for those travellers should be set at \$3.60 for 2016-17, \$3.80 for 2017-18 and \$4.00 for 2018-19.
- Other senior card holders should only be eligible for a Concession Opal card and for those travellers the maximum daily fare will increase from \$2.50 to \$9.00.

We believe that these proposals will put a financial burden on some of our members who are dependent on public transport and have limited incomes, and that public transport could be put out of their reach. The proposed increases in the maximum daily fares from \$2.50 a day for those with pensioner or NSW war widow/ers cards will not be offset by increases in those pensions. Other senior card holders would face significant fare increases and for those on limited incomes, but not in receipt of those pensions, this would be a significant financial burden.

We are concerned that the proposed fare increases will not meet some of the stated objectives of the review, including encouraging the use of public transport and minimising the impact on customers. We note that in conducting the review IPART was asked by the Government to consider "whether current concession arrangements support the optimal use of the network". In our view, increases in the fares for seniors will not support the optimal use of the network but will result in some seniors, who now use public transport, choosing instead to travel by motor vehicle. This would serve to undermine the significant investment that the Government is making in public transport.

Yours sincerely



Ted McKeown
President