

## TO IPART, SYDNEY, NSW.

This submission is presented on behalf of the NSW COMMUTER COUNCIL, THE HUNTER COMMUTER COUNCIL, and local COMMUTER ASSOCIATIONS from the CENTRAL COAST, BLUEMOUNTAINS, ILLAWARRA/SOUTH COAST, NORTHERN SUBURBS, WESTERN SUBURBS, SPECIAL USERS (including senior citizens, pensioners, students, and others with limitations etc)

Many thanks for the opportunity of commenting on the IPART draft report on Sydney and adjacent area public transport fare proposals.

The Commuter Council, which comprises representatives of local and regional and functional user representative groups, and has operated continuously since the early seventies, meets monthly, or more frequently if required, has always taken a keen interest in fares.

Commuter user groups largely came in existence as a result of excessive fare proposals and had little difficulty in organising public meetings attended by large numbers of people.

The change of Government in 1976 was largely due to excessive fare proposals.

Since then political parties have promised to limit fares to CPI increases.

After an examination of the proposed IPART report to the NSW government on proposed public transport fares for introduction mid 2016, it is conceded that there are some good points that could be supported but these are offset by proposals for excessive rises for outer suburban and intercity workers and senior citizens.

### THEREFORE

1. **We object to the large fare increase for outer suburban areas.** Large numbers of people on the outer areas of Sydney will be badly affected. It is pointed out that the financial position of families in outer areas is much worse than those of inner areas due to the lack of employment opportunities. A large fare increase such as this will most likely result in more people not travelling at all, or travelling by car, with road accident increases and congestion as well as reducing the standard of living of people residing in those areas.
2. **We object to the large increase for Pensioner tickets.** Many elderly people who perform extremely important voluntary work in the community will no longer be able to, or want to, due to the high cost of fares.
3. **We point out that the current unreliable rail service to outer suburban areas** does not justify any fare increases. The fact that this unreliability is largely due to freight train failures does not absolve the government of responsibility.
4. **As many senior officials are calling for senior citizens to cease driving cars and make more use of public transport** in itself justifies lower fares and better service
5. We also ask the time based tickets should be retained for Newcastle

Regards

Kevin Parish OAM, CHAIR COMMUTER COUNCIL