

Passenger Transport Act 2014
Section 123(1)(a)

Referral

I, the Hon Paul Lawrence Toole MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, with the approval of the Hon Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Customer Service and Minister administering the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992*, under section 123(1)(a) of the *Passenger Transport Act 2014*, refer to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) the following matter for investigation and report:

The determination of appropriate maximum fares for rural and regional bus services from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025.

In addition to the matters contained in s124 of the *Passenger Transport Act 2014*, in undertaking this investigation, IPART is, under s123(2)(b) of the *Passenger Transport Act 2014*, to consider:

1. The equity of current adult and concessional fares compared to Sydney metropolitan bus fares, particularly for medium and longer-distance journeys
2. Number of fares bands and day capping, and whether further simplification is recommended
3. Relativities between regional bus fares and coaches provided by NSW Trains taking into account service differences
4. The development of on demand services in regional areas
5. Customers' willingness and capacity to pay given demographics in urban and rural areas in regional NSW

IPART is to publicly consult on a draft report as soon as practicable.

IPART is to submit its final report and determination under this referral to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads as soon as practicable but no later than 4 December 2020, or such later date as notified in writing by the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.

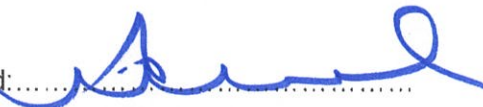
Signed:



The Hon Paul Toole MP
Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

Date: 15/4/20

Signed:



The Hon Victor Dominello MP
Minister for Customer Service

Date: 17.4.20



The Hon Paul Toole MP
Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

Ref. BN20/00201

Dr Paul Paterson AO
Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240

Dear Dr Paterson

I am writing to refer to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) the task of determining appropriate maximum fares for rural and regional bus services from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025. This referral, which is attached, has been approved by the Minister for Customer Service, the Hon Victor Dominello MP, in accordance with the requirements of s123 of the Passenger Transport Act 2014.

Rural and regional bus services are vital in providing mobility in areas where there are few alternatives.

Therefore, this review provides an important opportunity to ensure that rural and regional bus fares continue to serve the community's needs.

I look forward to the commencement of this important review, to considering IPART's advice with respect to rural and regional bus services, and to receiving IPART's final report in due course.

Yours sincerely

THE HON PAUL TOOLE MP

CC: The Hon. Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Transport and Roads.