

In regards to City Rail Fare increases, I think its absolutely disgusting that even such an increase is considered. A 20% to 30% increase or 12% increase in real terms is unjustified when we are still receiving substandard services. The trains are dirty, old uncomfortable and over crowded.

How many government officials have to stand to and from work for 45min. each day? I returned home this evening after a 30C degree day outside, it must have been 45C degrees inside the train. To top it off the train was having difficulty closing its doors so we sat for another 5 minutes waiting for the problem to be fixed. An extra 5 minutes inside the train is too long when its that hot. How many elderly or patrons with medical conditions suffer or collapse as a result of the unairconditioned train? I began commuting on the trains in 2000 and in 2004 I decided to purchase a car because train travel on the Illawara and North Shore Lines were too unreliable and uncomfortable. I went back to travelling to work by train 2 years ago as the petrol prices increased, unfortunately the services and the condition of the trains havent improved. Fortunately, I have the option to drive or catch the train every week, others do not. It should be noted as well my job requires me to work shift work. I always drive to work on the occassion I am working in the afternoon or evening, as safety is an issue for me and do not feel safe travelling alone at 1030pm - 1100pm at night.

With the economy bordering on collapse, can you really justify increasing the fares at this level, pushing us further into recession? Give us the service that a first world nation deserves and then consider a fare increase.