

Dear Sir/Madam

In respect to your increase in train fares I, as a daily cityrail commuter submit the following reasons why the NSW Government should not increase fares but take alternative actions to decrease costs:

1. In the last 12 months there has been news media stories of cityrail staff embessling large sums of money that was for works programs. In the stories it was reported that senior Cityrail staff had been aware of "rummors" about such activity and taken no action. Since the discovery no senior management has been held accountable. As this clearly shows senior management not doing their jobs I suggest large savings could be made by sacking 90% of senior staff who clearly are not doing the work they are paid to perform;
2. Cityrail sends large sums of money on advertising. Each Wednesday Cityrail places a full page advertisement in MXNews for the express purpose of "spin". On Wednesday 15 October it was edition 54. This is only the tip of the iceberg of money being wasted. Cityrail advertisements appear in all print media regularly. As this issue stated Cityrail was a runner up in this years Australian Marketing Institute Awards for Marketing and Excellence it could be suggested management should change jobs as they certainly can't run a rail system with any Excellence. Prior to your final report kindly look into the yearly advertising budget of Cityrail. and in light of the premier, Nathan Ree's comments that the NSW Government would stop the "spin" surely advertising will cease and these funds could be spent on Excellence in train service. Or an alternative would be to advertise on trains, COST NOTHING!
3. We are now reading news media acticles that another report commissioned by Cityrail costing \$10 million dollars has been completed for more than 6 months did not include any recommendations. So for \$10 million dollars 157 pages was produced achiving nothing. That is \$63,694.27 per page. Whoever arranged and paid for this should be saacked and not replaced, saving more money for use in fixing the problems not reporting what they are.
4. Your report states the average wage for commuters at being over \$90,000.00 per annum. Is this the average wage of Cityrail employees or perhaps IPART employees because it is definately not the average wage of Cityrail commuters and it is obvious whoever wrote this report has never caught a train in peak hour. I work with many professionals earning this type of wage and in Sydney they all wear suits however when you look at the people getting off trains there are less than 2% in suits. You should go back to whoever supplied this piece of information and ask for a more appropriate figure or why don't you do what Cityrail does and give away free fortnightly tickets for people to give them feedback via their website?
5. On October 27 2008 Cityrail ran a full page add for 4 new positions (permanent full time) to approve and implement building standards. Wouldn't it be more appropriate for Cityrail to fix their product before being concerned about buildings? Even if these jobs are required why are they not contract as buildings do not need to be assessed forever presumably once assessed thats the end of the job?

Janet Lee