

Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2008 8:41 PM

Subject: Submission re train fare increases

AGAINST TRAIN FARE INCREASES IN 2009

Inhabitants of NSW are being encouraged to use public transport to reduce our carbon footprint and help in the fight against global warming. To this end, it is hardly fair to penalise train commuters by pushing up fare prices. Commuters who travel by train should be encouraged to continue using this form of public transport, but with the proposed train fare hikes in January 2009, we are, in fact, being discouraged from doing so.

The train fare prices are already high, especially since the service commuters are offered are mostly below standard. Not only are the trains consistently running behind schedule, which makes commuters late for work and other pressing engagements, but the condition of the trains is often appalling. Graffiti everywhere, broken seats, no air conditioning or adequate ventilation in many coaches, dirty carriages, interleading doors that don't close properly, brakes that squeal badly, shortage of carriages (where the length of the train is shorter than the platform it arrives at), etc, etc. In fact, most mornings, the trains are so packed full of commuters that you end up standing, or should I say, squashed into a carriage like sardines in a tin.

If these train fare increases are to take place, the trains and train services should first be improved/upgraded to an acceptable standard - one that is comparable to others in capital cities around the world. I cannot even begin to count how many times I've missed my connecting bus because the train is late in arriving, and as a result, am late for work in the mornings.

I strongly object to the proposed train fare increases and hope that public appeals and opinion will be taken into account when making an informed decision. Otherwise, we may as well all start using our cars to get to and from work, and give the trains and buses a miss.

I would like my name and personal details to be kept private.