

Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2008 9:09 PM

Subject: CONFIDENTIAL SUBMISSION re Review of CityRail fares, 2009-2012

Hello,

I would like to make this confidential submission re "[Review of CityRail fares, 2009-2012](#)".

I would like to strongly object to any increase in rail fares for a number of reasons.

1. I find it hard to believe that the average Sydney commuter earns \$98,000 per year. As I stand on Gosford Station each morning to travel to Sydney I doubt very much that more than a handful of people on the platform are on such a large salary. I and my friends would very much like to have a salary of \$98,000 per year.
2. Tens of thousands of people commute to Sydney from out lying areas such as the Central Coast, Hunter, Blue Mountains, Western Suburbs, South Coast etc because they have been forced to live in these outer areas as it is not affordable to live in Sydney. But we have to travel to Sydney each day to work because that is where the work is located.
3. It takes me over 2 hours to get from my house to my work each way each day. That is over 20 hours a week I spend travelling. I have to pay expensive bus fares to get to and from the station and then expensive train fares to and from Sydney just to earn a living.
4. The government wants more people to commute to work to ease traffic congestion on the roads and to help the environment. If you increase fares you'll drive more people into cars as there will be no incentive to suffer the daily hardship and inconvenience of over crowded and poorly run City Rail system.
5. All people who travel distances should be getting reduced fares and not increased fares. I object strongly to increasing fares to the Central Coast. It is expensive enough.
6. The discounts we receive for buying weekly, fortnightly and longer time period tickets should not be reduced under any circumstances but if anything they should be increased. The concept of people paying a fare that is solely based on distance travelled will severely impact people on the Central Coast and other outlying areas. We must receive discounts for long distance travel and that shouldn't be measured from Newcastle outwards but from a lot closer to Sydney CBD.
7. The government wants people to live further out from Sydney CBD so they must provide the required services at an acceptable price. City Rail is a public service that the government is expected to provide and it is not expected to run at a profit.
8. The cost of living keeps increasing but we don't keep getting pay rises to equal the costs. People are just trying to keep a job to support a family.
9. Any argument that there has been a increase in service from City Rail is incorrect. The train journeys take longer, the trains are over crowded such that people have to stand long distances or have to wait for a number of trains to come before being able to even board a train and the service is not very reliable. Also some of the rolling stock is not really suitable for the purpose and please do not think that the newer trains are better as they are not.

Please don't increase our fares.