

Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2008 10:03 PM

Subject: Objection to train fare increases.

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to voice my objection to the proposed rail price increase. I travel from Penrith to Strathfield each day and the cost of a weekly ticket is \$41 - making the cost over 1 year just under \$2000. I have managed to purchase a ticket at a cheaper rate recently but with the cost of living increases and interest rate rises I found this extremely difficult and it may not be possible for me in the New Year. I am a mother of 3 children and I am now faced with transport charges for my son travelling to school as well as the loss of the back to school allowance.

Additionally there are many times when I travel that I have to stand for sometimes half the journey home or be prepared to sit on the floor or steps of the carriages (which I refuse to do as the carriages are usually quite dirty) and I find this unacceptable considering the cost. My two older sons travel to the city to university for which they have a HECS debt and the extra cost to them will also be felt by our family in the extreme as I subsidise their expenses when their part time jobs do not cover them. I am already working two jobs in an effort to covering our expenses but this added increase may well be beyond our capacity to pay.

What is not taken into account is the fact that an increase can often hit a family more than once and in fact this family is hit 3 times by any rail increase.