

Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2008 9:38 PM

Subject: Submission relating to the increase of Rail Fares

I acknowledge that there has to be price increases to meet the cost of replacing aging rolling stock and maintain the service that the public expects. However in establishing a reasonable cost increase State Rail must first address the issues that have been identified to meet the needs of the travelling public and be held accountable to meet realistic targets for improvements in efficiency.

Living in the Illawarra, services have deteriorated to a point where journey times have increased by 20 minutes each way between Thirroul and Central stations, the number of services has decreased and the on time figures have been fudged through changing on time running to be within 5 to minutes of the expected time.

In addition ICAC once again found major deficiencies in relation to financial management with a number of individuals expected to be prosecuted. This combined with multi million dollar budget blowouts for new infrastructure does not justify the proposed cost increase.

I propose that City rail be provided with a CPI increase each year with an additional 1% increase up to a maximum 3% for meeting or exceeding efficiency targets for the 3 year period. The targets are to be set by the Government in a similar way to other public sector agencies are expected to meet or exceed efficiency savings and independently audited.

This will place the onus on State Rail to improve services to meet the demands of the travelling public.

thank you for your consideration.