

**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 November 2008 10:59 PM

**Subject:** Commuter Feedback on Rail Price Increases.

I am a single person who commutes from Emu Plains to North Sydney each day. I am currently trying to buy my first home and will be on a very tight budget to be able to afford it at any degree. Any increase in transport costs will make everything else much harder and may reduce my ability to be independent and not rely on government support. And you are trying to justify such huge increases for the areas that are worst off, and where the government is trying to encourage population growth (Sydney Growth Centres mean anything).

If the service was even adequate i would support the increase, but seriously it is ridiculous. ALthough i catch a mountains train to and from on most days, these trains are just as slow as any other service. It seems it is impossible for the system to coordinate to move the fast moving mountain trains around the all stops, so it takes just as to do the trip. Plus now the trains are stopping at more and more of the inner city stations which is making the trains over crowded and impossible to get a seat, and cramming people on like sardines. On long journeys such as that it doesn't seem right that people who could catch other trians designed for closer stations to catch and slow down the trains heading further west. The service is beyond a joke and consumes huge amounts of my day, becuae it doesn't function adequately. I'm not even asking for perfect service, just adequate would be a huge bonus. If i could afford to live closer i would, but that isn't possible.

I think you need to improve services to justify the increases before you start charging them. The prices seem to keep going up but the services are only get worse and worse and you seem to be punishing those who can't live closer to the city by reducing services, but increasing our costs more then other areas. The government needs to stop coddling those who have the resources (and money) and start supporting those who are trying to make it good on their own and improve their lives and that of their children.

Please don't increase prices, but if you do, you surely can't justify such a huge increase for the areas of the population who are doing it the hardest.