

5 November 2008

**Subject: Rail Fare Increase**

I was informed of the rail fare increase by reading the MX newspaper on the train and my initial reaction was to swear. I currently travel from Bankstown to Circular Quay on a weekly basis (like everyone else) to get to work and make a living.

In my honest opinion we were previously advised that future increases will occur only if the services were improved. I have not noticed any improvements what so ever.

Some of the things I have noticed are:

- Old trains still being used with no air conditioning for the hot and cold days.
- No new trains in service.
- Overcrowded trains.
- Cancellations.
- Delays.
- Increase in rubbish on trains.
- Rude staff – (who in the world doesn't accept 5c coins? Last I knew there were a part of the Australian currency)

Are they not aware of what is happening to the world financial market? Commuters are losing their jobs (being made redundant), losing their homes (as they are unable to make their mortgage repayments), and cannot even afford to provide food for their families. We could be heading into recession by Christmas, unemployment is skyrocketing, and they want to increase the train fares?

If the fare increase passes, I would be spending more on a piece of cardboard which is called a ticket to catch the train to work, than it costs me to fill up on fuel which lasts me for 2 weeks. This will also make me as well as other commuters drive to work which of course will anger those greenies because we are killing the earth.

We are so behind on our train system compared to every other country it is unbelievable. I think it's time the State to do the same thing that Optus as done and start sacking those big guns who do absolutely nothing other than pocketing their high salary.

I therefore strongly object to the increase in train fares due to the above reasons and from the reasons my fellow commuters provide for the years 2009-2012.

Thank you