

4th November, 2008.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in response to the State Government's proposal that train fares be increased by up to 25% over the next four years, with an increase as high as 18% proposed to be implemented by next year.

I am a twenty year old Admin Assistant, only just beginning my career. I live just outside of Penrith, and as part of my overall plan to eventually relocate my life out of the Western Suburbs, I have a job in a small law firm in the CBD, with plans to eventually move closer to work which cannot be completed at the present time due to my financial situation.

According to data presented by IPART, the average commuter has a yearly income of \$97, 917. I would like to suggest that these figures do not apply to the majority of commuters, especially those such as myself who are young, just starting out in their careers, and may live at home, but only due to not being able to afford the expenses of living out of home. I earn an income of \$33k package, which equates to roughly \$2,200/month. I pay my parents board, I also owe them money which I am paying back each month on top of my board, I have a car to run (which isn't cheap), and I am trying to save. I already pay on average, \$200+ for my monthly ticket to the city for work, and if fares were to increase, I would feel even more robbed than I already do.

Aside from anything else, the commuters of Sydney are already not getting what we pay for. Trains are filthy, ridiculously overcrowded, frequently late, and service as a whole is simply not up to scratch.

In short, I (along with many others) feel that this proposal is an utter disgrace and should most definitely be reconsidered, if not abandoned entirely.