

City Rail Fares 2009-12 Submission

In designing your unaffordable and unfair fares pricing proposal you have determined that people in full time employment can afford any increase just because they are in full time employment! What about mortgages, child care, supporting spouses, increased food costs, and no corresponding wage increases to counter your 30% fare hikes?

How are people supposed to afford this when they are trying to feed and clothe their families and pay off their home?

The worst hit is longer distance travellers, whom your own data indicates have the lowest incomes, yet it is they who will be forced to pay 25% more for a weekly. I can assure you that a \$76 weekly train ticket – an increase of \$20 over 4 years – is NOT affordable.

Long distance commuters often spend four hours or more travelling to and from work each day. Many have had to move out of Sydney to afford to buy a home, and the requirement to travel a long distance to work would have been considered as part of the decision making process in making such a move. Your fare increase proposal is adding a financial burden to many people who are commuting long distances for the very fact that they cannot afford to live closer to Sydney. The use of Hornsby (30km from Sydney) in your Report as an example of a 'long distance' traveller is ludicrous. That's the 'halfway home' mark for people travelling to the Central Coast. How about you consider incomes from people in Newcastle, Wyong or Illawarra regions (100km from Sydney) for an indication of *real* long distance commuters.

Your proposal is unfair and unreasonable. The use of public transport benefits our society as a whole, yet you aim to penalise the people on the lowest incomes who already have to travel the longest to work.