

RE: Submission – 2007 Report: CityRail Fares Review

To whom it may concern,

I write to you regarding the proposed 25% price increase of train fares over the next 3 years. I am a daily commuter on the Bankstown line, travelling each work day morning and afternoon from Punchbowl to North Sydney.

The CityRail Fares Final Report notes “that the average household income of train users was around \$100, 000 in 2005/06.” The accuracy of these figures bewilders me. Even if these figures were accurate, I do not believe anyone earning \$100, 000 or more annually would even consider travelling by train in the state they were and currently are in.

I am a 22 year old graduate commencing my career in the workforce early this year, from a single parent household, and am the sole provider for my sick mother and younger brother still at school. In the current economic times, even a little increase in train fares would be detrimental to my life.

I am not on a \$100, 000 annual income, and nor are any of my friends, family and colleagues. How can CityRail propose such increases when it is clear people cannot afford to pay them?

Another issue the government advocates is imperative; that of reducing the amount of cars on roads and increasing the amount of commuters on public transport, to help cut down on carbon emissions, seems to have not been seriously taken into consideration when introducing the proposed fare increases.

If CityRail seriously believe people want to travel on unreliable, frequently delayed, overcrowded, some days not air-conditioned, some days extremely cold air-conditioned, awfully dirty trains, especially after the price increases – they honestly need to have a proper look at these outrageous proposals.

If this proposal goes ahead, I will be sincerely considering travelling by car to work, as the cost of fuel and parking would equate to that of the cost of travelling by train; and why not travel in the comfort of your own car if there is no incentive to use alternate transport?