

Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2008 5:44 PM

Subject: Proposed train fare increases

I wish to lodge a case against the proposed train fare increases.

I travel by train each day from Bowral to Sydney and return (Monday to Friday). This is now a 5 hour per day return trip. Whilst I was obviously aware of the travel arrangements when I first moved to Bowral, the quality of the service has reduced significantly over the years.

There are no longer any straight-through services (to Central) during peak hours. It seems the casual shoppers are supported by such a service, but peak hour travellers are not. This has added about 40 minutes per day to my travel time.

Now that we are changing trains mid trip, we join trains of a lesser quality. No airconditioning, dirty and unfomfortable trains are now the norm. Only the other day I was travelling into Sydney on an old style silver train, getting dripped on by leaking (rusty) water.

Trains are generally over-crowded. Any express service is normally delayed by an all-stops train in front of it (so instead of stopping at each station, the express service stops in between each station).

To be even considering increasing fares (particularly for long distance travellers) at a time when the quality of the service has degraded, seems unreasonable. If anything, you should be aiming to improve the service quality and reliability to attract new customers and take more cars off the road.