

Dear Sir

### **Proposed Fare Increase**

I wish to advise that I am a regular train commuter between my home at Blacktown and my work in the Sydney CBD. I choose to use public transport instead of driving myself, in an endeavour to assist the community by reducing traffic congestion and to assist the environment.

I understand that there is a proposed increase in fares of 17%, to take effect from January 2009. I would like to register my strong objection to this. In the current economic climate, things are already financially difficult enough, and such a large increase would create hardship for me and my family.

While I accept that running costs have increased, I believe that a 17% increase is excessive, when the normal CPI is only 3 – 5%. My wage increments are not even covering the CPI.

What I fail to understand is why those of us who are attempting to be environmentally responsible are to be penalised to the extent that we are forced to pay **17% more** for a rail system that, through government wastage and mismanagement of **my** taxpayer dollar, is not properly maintained with regard to cleanliness, frequently breaks down, and does not guarantee that I can get to my destination on time.