

Sent: Saturday, 1 November 2008 5:08 PM
Subject: submission

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

1.11.2008

To the Tribunal,

I am writing to register my concern at the proposed fare increases for train commuters travelling long distances (in my case from the Wollongong area). I choose to mostly travel by train to work in the Sydney CBD as I believe public transport to be a sounder environmental option, and rising petrol prices have made car travel prohibitively expensive.

Many people choose to live in Wollongong because real estate is more affordable and the overcrowding in the Sydney basin has meant people have been encouraged to decentralise. However, as employment opportunities are fewer in this area, and the unemployment rate is higher, people commute to continue to have work (full time and/or part time). The trains that service these areas are often overcrowded in peak times, and infrequent at other times, and over the last few years, the travelling time has increased.

The proposed fare increases penalise these workers for choosing to locate here, and will move people back to commuting by car- a much less environmentally palatable solution. Please reconsider these large increases.