

Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2008 9:31 PM
Subject: 25% fare increase for country city commuters

Dear City Rail,

I am horrified to read the two news articles regarding a possible increase in our fares up to 25% over the next two years due to reasons of outer Sydney commuters are paid more than Sydney commuter: and I quote joint \$97,917 average income verses Sydney commuter \$66,219.

Where do you get these pie in the sky amounts? I read out the article to the five regular commuters I know on the 6.30am Gosford train we join (coming from Newcastle) plus ten people I know on the 5.15pm Newcastle express leaving Central ... no one is even close to the Sydney amount let alone what your finding read and are horrified about a possible increase in fares.

I live alone and work five days a week as a teacher in Sydney outer CBD and I'm lucky to receive \$43,000/year from this position. All the Sydney teachers I work with are on around the same wage. To pay my mortgage of \$1800 a month I work a second job on the coast on the weekend which totals my income to \$48,000. To achieve this, I'm up at 5.30am for work and home 7pm, Monday to Friday. I work six days a week with the one day left for household duties like cloths washing, food shopping and bulk meal cooking for the coming weeks lunches and dinners. I can't afford to buy lunch at work, that is luxury I go without.

The only way I could break into the property market was to move out of Sydney, commute four hours door to door a day, back and forth from Sydney. I'm now fifty years old and saved for eight years for a small starting property of two bedrooms, in an average area. I have now commuted for seven years, and all the friends I travel with are either single or the only one bringing in an income into the house.

If your information is correct, then my cat brings in \$49,917 to the household income.... I'm lucky to get a dead lizard now and then from her, sorry but that's how silly all this information you are going on is.

I invite any survey company on board the 6.30 from Gosford (Starts from Newcastle) first carriage to have a chat and get some REAL statistics together from the real weekly commuters that keep City Rail going.

I dearly mind if you increase ticket prices, even a bit as I don't have anything left from my budget as it is.

I ask any Ipart or city rail employers reading this....If it was you in my position, would you move from Sydney, travel the long hours I do to keep a job, that pays your mortgage, work an extra day on the weekend, and be happy with an increase in your train tickets? I take my hat off to these hard working commuters, trying to survive and do what they do as I can tell you, it's not easy.

Thank you for listening!