

Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2008 9:39 AM

Subject: Raising train fares

I'm responding to the proposed 25% fare increase. Apparently City Rail have findings that show the average household income is \$98, 000.

I would like to ask how much do you think part-time workers, students, apprentices, single parents, families with a mother on maternity leave, pensioners, widows, or simply people that live by themselves earn? Or renters that live together but aren't actually a couple and therefore their income isn't really "combined?"

Personally I'm a single 24yr old female who lives by myself and earns \$48 000.

I think it is disgusting that the fares are being increased again. It has to be the worst transit system in the world. The money generated from the fare increase will in no way go about fixing the uncountable flaws in the system. I've no doubt that the head staff of government for City Rail will get themselves a pay increase. Now in their case I'm sure they could live by themselves and earn \$98 000. I would have to pay about \$50 per month on a system that is already functioning without this extra money and therefore proves it is not required. That money means I will have less money for rent and groceries and to actually live my life. If this money was taken from the head staff at City Rail I'm sure they wouldn't even be aware of it.

The commuters are in much more need of their money then City Rail and would make much better use of it, spending it on necessities to live.

The average amount of \$98 000 means that people earn collectively over or *below* this amount. And I'm sure there is a great variation in what people earn annually as *all* people in NSW catch the train. Do you think that if households earnt \$98 000 collectively that they would catch the train?? Or for that matter, live in the Western Suburbs where the majority of your commuters including myself are from? People live in the Western Suburbs as that is all they can afford. People earning \$98 000 live in the city and drive their expensive cars to work, not catch terrible public transport for hours on end every week.

I think City Rail have created this statistic to support themselves simply because the facts don't. It is a terrible generalisation which shows that City Rail really is clutching at straws to find any possible reason to increase fares simply because City Rail is the government and at the end of the day, there is nothing you can do to stop them. City Rail is not objective in the slightest and priority number one is to get money. The function of the trains and safety of the passengers comes in a sad second place, always has and always will.

The argument that City Rail should increase the fees because commuters supposedly earn enough to pay for it is so ridiculous it is almost indescribable.

I hope there is someone in charge of denying this proposal who has a shred of humanity left, as well as a sense of fairness, logic and objectivity.