

---

**Sent:** Sunday, 2 November 2008 7:21 PM

**Subject:** submission in relation to rail fare rise

I have been travelling to the Sydney CBD via Rail since 1984.

I am aware that there has to be some rise in fares to cover costs of running the rail system, but as the South Coast/Illawarra line in particular has had services cut, I don't believe it is fair that our fares should jump from \$54.00pw to possibly \$60.00pw.

In particular, our line does not have a train from 3.57pm until 4.41pm, which means we do not have any trains for a period of 44 minutes right on the afternoon peak period. The only train in between this period is an all stations service which terminates at Thirroul with no connecting service and arrives later than the 4.41pm service. I used to attend classes at 6pm and catch the previous service to Port Kembla at 4.22pm but had to cut my classes as the earliest my train now gets me home is 6.35pm. I am not the only person on my line who has had to cut their courses because of the lack of train services in our peak periods.

Yet the Cronulla line has services running every 5 minutes in peak period but still insist on catching our trains due to the fact they are express services for them.

I once asked an official at the station why the previous 4.22pm Port Kembla service was cut, and was told that there was a lack of drivers to run the trains. I presume from this he meant that connecting services between Helensburgh and Thirroul were cut, and so the now 4.22pm service to Thirroul is supposed to replace the lack of connecting services.

After being a commuter for such a long period, it has come to my attention that the services could be amended where all needs would be covered, such as the following:

- Make all PORT KEMBLA and DAPTO services either Tangarra/Oscar trains running from and to BONDI JUNCTION, and stopping at not only HURSTVILLE, SUTHERLAND, but also HELENSBURGH, STANWELL PARK, AUSTINMER, and then ALL STATIONS TO WOLLONGONG, then if PORT KEMBLA- all STATIONS TO PORT KEMBLA, and if DAPTO- all STATIONS TO DAPTO.
- All services to KIAMA/BOMADERRY and NOWRA to be Interurban services which run from SYDNEY CENTRAL and only stopping at HURSTVILLE and SUTHERLAND then THIRROUL, WOLLONGONG and then whatever appropriate stops to the South Coast.

I believe we should have the PORT KEMBLA and DAPTO services in line with regular commuting and make the KIAMA/BOMADERRY and NOWRA services suited to long distance country travel and express services. I believe this would cut some interconnecting services.

I hope you can consider our services as there are more and more people commuting to the city for work and we really need a service no more than 15 minutes during peak period. We already have hourly services off peak. I know that the Gosford/Central Coast has more regular services than we do, and after all Wollongong is the 3rd largest city in NSW so should have an equivalent public transport service to suit.