

Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2008 2:23 PM

Subject: Submission to protest CityRail fare increase in 2009

To whom it may concern,

I appreciate that moving tens of thousands of people from the greater Sydney region to the inner city every day is a challenging task – however I also think that monkeys could do a better job than CityRail has done in recent years.

I commute daily from the Sutherland Shire to Martin Place station and have to admit that compared to other rail lines, the one I travel seems to be of a better quality. This is not to say that I haven't encountered unreasonable delays and poor-quality trains, but it seems to me that the North Shore line is more of a problem area so it wouldn't hurt focusing some attention there first.

I'm only writing this submission because I have read in the papers recently that CityRail is preparing to increase its train fares by up to 25%. If this goes ahead, I will have no choice but to drive my car to work each day as a weekly train fare would subsequently cost more than I would spend on petrol per week. After a discussion with some colleagues at work, I would certainly not be the only one that would reconsider their daily route.

I'm an avid supporter of public transport and the benefits it has for our environment but it's hard to justify catching a train each day, with the great possibility of paying more and being late, when driving seems the more logical choice.

I'd also like to suggest – as I'm sure many others would have previously – the introduction of a commuting payment card, similar to that of London's oyster card and Hong Kong's Octopus card. Other cities have tried and tested this method of pre-payment with success, so I can't understand why Sydney hasn't introduced one of its own.

I think it's high time CityRail entered the 21st century and relieved some of the stress felt by Sydney's commuters each day.