

Sent: Tuesday, 4 November 2008 9:29 AM

Subject: Submission for Protesting against the 17% increase in train fares.

Good morning

I travel to Sydney for work from Newcastle to North Sydney on the Central Coast line. Currently my fare is already \$75.00 a week and \$3,300 a year on a \$50K package. Should the increase of 17% go ahead this would make my fare \$87.75 a week and \$3,861 a year. This would greatly increase my expenses and would put me out of budget of what I could afford.

I think that a 17% increase is highly extreme and I protest against the increase. Especially when the trains are not always on time, getting me to work late at least once a fortnight. Fortunately I have a flexible work environment but it still means I have make up the time lost. Also, the trains are not necessarily always clean, they are packed and there is not enough services to cater for the population. Often enough I can't even get a seat and have to stand from North Sydney to Gosford. The train and rail network is not proficient enough to deserve this sort of an increase. And I will highly consider public transport and working in Sydney.

Secondly I thought the government was attempting to reduce greenhouse gases and they were trying to encourage people to commute to work via public transport. I fear if these increases continue people will just drive for the convenience and luxury.

I strongly protest against the increase. Noting that they only had an increase early this year and last year. How much more can people be expected to pay especially under the current circumstances of the economy. It seems goods and services keep going up but salaries remaining the same making it almost impossible for the average family income earner to survive.