

Sent: Tuesday, 4 November 2008 9:27 AM

Subject: RE: Review of CityRail fares, 2009-2012

Dear Sir/Madam

I read with some dismay that you are proposing to allow Railcorp to increase rail fares by 17% early next year.

I objected to the last round of fare increases as there has been no noticeable improvement in service to my station. Regrettably my same arguments apply. Railcorp have made life in my neighbourhood very unpleasant over the last few years with very little return to the community. They have commissioned a stabling yard at Macdonaldtown Triangle which was supposed to improve the on-time running of trains. This has now been in operation for a year with no improvement in the on-time running of trains through Macdonaldtown station. The 8.14am train to the City Circle is still most days running predictably 4 -10 minutes late leading to an overcrowded, mostly un-air-conditioned arriving which is not always possible to squeeze onto.

The previous rail fare increase was granted because you had deemed that there had been an improvement in service – I and my fellow commuters would dispute this. There has been no improvement in service since the last increase .

Your paper calls for the fares to be balanced between “affordability vs patronage” it does not look at the appropriateness of the service being offered. City Rail time tables should be reviewed against what the public requires of an effective transport service. In most modern cities there would be a far more frequent service – albeit at a higher cost – from a station as close to the CBD as mine. Satellite commuter towns would have a frequent fast running train.

My company will soon be moving my job to Olympic Park where the rail service is totally impractical as there are NO commuter trains that service the park rather they run every ½ hour outside of peak times. This will lead to me having to use multiple forms of non-connecting public transport services for which I cannot purchase a combined ticket. The company has had to make provision for up to 70% of staff located at the park to use cars to get to work on time – a huge indication that the rail service is not appropriate.

I recently returned from England where I stayed in Woking and caught the train up to London. I had the choice of many fast running trains, a ticket that covered the journey up to London and all transport in London. I did not need to clutch a timetable and plan my return trip as I knew that I could turn up at Waterloo station and find a fast train departing within 10 minutes of my arrival. If Railcorp was providing services that came within Coeee of what other modern cities are experiencing then I would have no problem with paying an additional amount. Until there is a noticeable improvement these increases are a slap in the face of the long suffering Sydney Commuters who have been forced to make do with an over-crowded, hot & stuffy inadequate service for the most part.

Disappointed