

Sent: Monday, 20 October 2008 11:07 AM

Subject: ipart - rail fare increase submission

To Whom it may concern regarding the ipart - rail fare increase submission

An increase of this size is totally unwarranted. If the State Labor Government is trying to get people back into cars and off public transport they are certainly going about it the right way.

Having been a commuter for over 16 years I have noticed the rail service has progressively gotten worse and worse (especially during the last 13 years, hmm I wonder why). Perhaps the Government of the last 13 years should have gradually improved the Rail infrastructure to meet Sydney's population growth instead of squandering all the land tax they made at the expense of new homeowners. Also why should commuters get lumped again with the cost of a Government trying to hurriedly fix (or fudge up) public infrastructure before the next election.

They've been given enough chances already, why should we wear the cost of their complacency and greed. And on top of this the Richmond line has received no major upgrades since 1991 when the Diesel trains were replaced. Regarding the distance fare increases, this is totally unfair to middle distance commuters. There should be a more equal fare as those that travel 15km or less normally get a more regular service.

Why should Richmond line (and other distance) commuters who only get a service every half hour (if they're lucky) pay more than commuters that get a frequent and more reliable service.

If these fares come in it will become cheaper to car pool, which will take people off the trains and back onto the road. What's the Government going to do then, put a tollbooth on every road heading to the city?

Perhaps the Government should improve the service first so they can show that the increases were warranted (I have a feeling they wouldn't be able to manage that anyway).

To finish off, this increase is a spit in the face of every commuter who has waited on a station for their late train or who has stood in an over crowded none air-conditioned train or who has had there train cancelled altogether (without notice from station staff for up to 15 minutes) or who has a train leave early (before its scheduled departure) and then had to wait for 30 minutes for the next service or who has had to put up with rude station staff or (finally) who has to put up with Government bull about how we (the user) should pay for their lack of foresight.

If these fare increases are introduced, City Rail can go jump I will car pool instead.

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Regards

Unfortunate Sydney Commuter