

Sent: Thursday, 23 October 2008

Subject: Review of 2009 City Rail fares

I write to you in order to bring a couple of things to your attention and make considerations before the IPART makes any decisions to 2009 increase for City rail fares. Whenever any fare revision is done, while deciding to increase the fare, there should also be considerations about the level of service provided by that particular facility as it is a bit unfair if the level of service is not improved, despite pumping funds continuously and the commuters to have to bear the burnt of this, especially in this time of recession. City rail services are pathetic and I find it unfair for a diligent taxpayer like me to keep paying higher costs (including full travel fares) and not getting corresponding benefits. There are many times when I have to stand all the way to Quakers Hill from City Circle in the afternoon peak which is approx. 40kms as there are no enough services. Even Basic facilities at Quakers Hill station are also not up to the mark with no proper infrastructure (such as lifts or multiple ticket counters), forget about security, graffiti or anti social elements at night. A 20% proposed increase in fares, demand a relevant (if not equivalent) increase in services (both trains and other infrastructural). Lastly, as the population of NSW has been on a constant rise, more and more commuters use and pay City rail for their daily commute. Bearing in mind that the numbers of trains have not increased in proportion, the theory of Economy of Scale, should be applied in this situation. This basically means that City Rail should be making profits out of the current scenario to cover other additional costs and hence there should be no need for the fares to be increased.

Thanks and Regards,