

To: IPART Mailbox

Subject: Review of fares for metropolitan and outer metropolitan bus services from January 2010

To whom it may concern,

I wish to question the validity of the proposed bus fare increases in Sydney. I have been a regular bus user in recent years due to the fact of increasing traffic congestion and higher fuel prices. However I find the services from the Northern Beaches to my work in North Sydney to be quite inadequate and I often question whether it is worth it, to keep on using the "services" provided. I find it difficult to justify an increase of fares when i encounter these problems in my daily transport:

1. Buses not running to timetable - either very early or very late, even at the start of it's journey.
2. Buses too full and not stopping for passengers. This is a regular occurrence every day, particularly at Neutral in the afternoon when attempting to transfer buses.
3. Inadequate services direct to North Sydney or Chatswood.

These problems often create a stressful and agitated environment for drivers and passengers alike and often i observe some aggravated moments as passengers attempt to make their way home. I understand that the "service" is set to cope with a certain amount of passengers but to then justify a fare increase without an increase in "services" it is difficult to understand. Especially when this is marketed by the Government as an affordable, hassle free form of transport to work. My job and many others who are lucky to still have one, hasn't seen a wage increase in years, yet we all have to cope with "increasing costs" of services provided by the government and associated corporations.

It may well mean that its now cheaper again to get back in the car and have a comfortable trip to work while messing up the environment, instead of putting ourselves through the turmoil and expense of the Sydney Buses network.

The reports in the papers state that there has been only a few submissions to this proposed fare hike but I question whether most of the public even have heard about it. I certainly only read about it recently. Maybe there has only been a little amount of outcry due to the lack of notification about the increases?

I wonder if i'll see any improvements in the next few years in accordance with the fare increases.

Thank you for your time.

Don Reynolds.