

In regard to the "*Fact Sheet - Review of fares for metropolitan and outer metropolitan bus services from January 2010*", I wish to dispute the need for bus fare rises.

Some contradictory statements are made in this *Fact Sheet*, which I would also like to raise.

In the review *Fact Sheet*, you claim that fares are set to "*encourage optimal use of bus services*". Yet by raising the fares, you will be discouraging use due to expense.

This also goes against your intention to create external benefits "*such as reduced road congestion and reduced air pollution*." With more cars on the road due to poor bus services and expensive fares, this will surely result in raised, not reduced air pollution.

In addition, you state that the "*the Government, not bus passengers, should fund the costs of social welfare policies*." Why then, are passengers expected to foot the increasing fares?

It comes down to what is a fair amount. I disagree that a rise by an average of 14.8% is fair.

Especially considering that bus services are renowned for being so poor in Sydney. This is primarily due to inefficiencies in both outer services and metropolitan services. Peak hour services are so obviously under serviced with many, many metropolitan services unable to even stop for passengers due to full buses.

If a fare rise is truly necessary, I suggest raising them even further and spending the difference on designing a world class bus system. Get rid of the current NOISY buses and show us a bit of ingenuity. It IS possible, just look to Singapore or Japan for inspiration.

Basically, higher fares for a sub-par service isn't fair.

S. Adams