



Gladys Berejiklian MP

STATE MEMBER FOR WILLOUGHBY

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Dr Michael Keating AC
Chairman, Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr Keating,

I am writing in relation to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) 2009 Review of Rural and Regional Bus Fares. The NSW Liberal/Nationals do not support IPART's recommendation to increase rural and regional bus fares by up to 3.7%.

Recent fare increases

This review comes just months after rural and regional bus commuters already experienced a fare increase by up to 8.5% (January 2009).

Above CPI

IPART's recommendation of 3.7% is well above the current Consumer Price Index (CPI). Over the twelve months to June quarter 2009, the national CPI was at 1.5%.

Lack of rural and regional transport options

It is unfair to increase bus fares when rural and regional commuters already have a lack of transport options. It is important to encourage the use of public transport, not discourage it – especially in rural and regional areas.

Pressure on household budgets

Many rural and regional households have been negatively impacted by the Global Financial Crisis. Fluctuating petrol prices always have a greater impact in communities where distances to be travelled are longer. It is important, now more than ever, to provide affordable and accessible public transport.

For these reasons, the NSW Liberal/Nationals believe the proposed rural and regional bus fare increases are unjustified.

Yours faithfully,


Gladys Berejiklian MP
Shadow Minister for Transport

Working for Willoughby