

Commuter Council 8 <commuters@bigpond.com>
31/03/2006

Subject: Re: 2006 SUBMISSION FROM COMMUTER COUNCIL TO IPART
NUMBER 8 RE ILLAWARRA

In general the Council agrees with the points provided by the ICA.

The HUGE percentage increase of off-peak fares without a drastic improvement in service level (in fact a decrease in service speed and frequency in the most recent timetables) is only going to lower off-peak patronage (the very area we were told was supposedly being targeted by City Rail for increased patronage). If the example of other capital city fare levels is being used as a justification for much higher off peak fares then how about copying other cities use of integrated ticketing (as in Brisbane and Melbourne) and higher off-peak frequencies (ie as in Melbourne and Perth). Why not learn from the better off-peak practices in other capital cities and not just the punitive things like a huge increase in fares to punish Sydney off peak customers and drive more of them into their motor-cars.

The Council did agree that perhaps an increase in off-peak fares could be accepted if the journey could be broken along the route paid for.