

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a comment on the IPART Transport inquiry. Please reply by postal mail to confirm receipt of this submission.

I firmly believe the NSW Government should leave the prices of public transport as they are, as the CityRail Network has not grown. Furthermore, we don't have competition in the urban railways industry in NSW, like they do in the UK and USA, to keep things competitive.

I am especially incensed that there is hearsay the NSW Government will remove the \$2.50 Pensioner All-Day-Travel ticket, after introducing it only 1 year or so ago. When they introduced this ticket, I began to believe the NSW Government FINALLY began to understand and care for the elderly, sick and disadvantaged in our community.

Being a Pensioner myself, this is a LIFELINE for me to meet my colleagues, support networks and keep in touch with the community. There is NO WAY I would be able to keep the social network that I require for my mental and physical well-being, if the NSW Government were to withdraw this ticket or increase its price.

In fact, since this ticket was introduced, I no longer have a need for anti-depressants as I am a volunteer in my community Op-Shop, which I could not afford to do before this ticket was introduced (nor if this ticket type increases in price) because it would be cost too much to travel to the volunteer site.

I have to PLEAD with IPART to at least keep this particular ticket at \$2.50 and not increase its cost or decrease its coverage area. In fact, keep it as it is now.

Furthermore, I ask that you categorically state in your final report on this matter that this \$2.50 ticket will stay as is for the foreseeable future.

Yours Sincerely,

Alex Portnoy