

Anne Densley

Chairman Jim Cox  
Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal

Attn: Chairman Cox

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my discomfort with RailCorp's request for a fare increase. I don't believe we get real value for money in Sydney, particularly if you compare services with those in London, Tokyo or Singapore.

In Singapore trains are fast, cheap & extremely clean. In Tokyo, services are inexpensive, frequent & very comprehensive with most of the city accessible by train. Ticketing machines are fast, user friendly & the turnstiles accept tickets upside-down, back-to-front or whatever. Despite the far greater volume of people using the service, queues in & out of train stations & thru turnstiles are thus very efficiently managed. I caught several peak hour trains & believe that despite their notoriety, the trains were no more crowded than peak hour services in Sydney.

In comparison, at Bondi Junction station, queues are excessive & potentially dangerous when offloading trains. There are only two escalators off the station & another heavily utilised escalator to the bus station.

There is no train service to Bondi Beach, resulting in an overcrowded & extremely slow bus ride. Much of Sydney can not be reached by train, with the North Shore in particular, extremely under serviced by RailCorp. and services at Westmead for example, are becoming fewer & far between.

Further, Sydney trains and train stations are elderly, less than clean, with lots of graffiti. Town Hall Station platforms are, in my experience, dangerously overcrowded.

Finally, as a Registered Nurse, I believe that fair & equitable access to cheap, good quality public transport is also a public health issue. Public transport users are, on the whole, healthier than drivers & reduced traffic means less smog & therefore less associated illness. Importantly, less congestion & pollution also creates a much more pleasant & wholesome urban environment.

Yours Sincerely,