

Brian Blunt
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City Rail fare increase submission

If City Rail wants to increase its off-peak fares, maybe it could restructure them so that they do not discriminate against passengers living in the outer suburbs.

At the moment they are available for "travel after 9 am". This means that a passenger on the 8.28 service from Penrith pays full fare and a traveller on the 9.07 service from Westmead can get an off peak ticket. But both these travellers will be on the same train, so there are effectively two fare levels in place.

I believe a fairer system would be one based on the time the train is scheduled to arrive at, say, Central or Town Hall Stations. Perhaps a nominal time of 9.30 could be set, with trains arriving later being designated off peak services. It would not be difficult to program ticket vending machines at individual stations to reflect this situation.

Another unfair situation seems to be that trains departing the city before 9 a.m. are generally in off peak conditions, with low loadings. City Rail might actually benefit from these trains being accessible to off peak pricing.

The above initiatives could be further expanded by banning off peak travel on trains departing the city between say 4.30pm and 6.30pm.

Brian L Blunt