

To whom it may concern

I read with disbelief that Railcorp have applied to increase rail fares on the basis of improved "On time performance"-this mathematical impossibility must be challenged.

As a Central Coast commuter, the new timetable introduced in September,2005 has merely facilitated a further 8 minutes travel each way, per day-Trains are leaving earlier, and arriving later, but travelling the same distance on the same lines. It doesn't take an Einstein to realise the extra wasted time is merely to fool the bean counters and to satisfy the 92 percent on time ratio demanded by regulators,

To make matters worse, the Late train definition has blown out to 5 Minutes, what a hoax .That means that previously late trains of up to 11 minutes late are now deemed on time?!!, Huh?

Why do my trains into Central from the Coast regularly, almost daily ,wait at Hornsby for 2 -3 minutes, and at Strathfield again for 3 – 5 minutes, virtually every day??. Because there is too much time fat built into the new train timetable to cover delays that MAY happen ,and still produce a service that supposedly ,on paper, is running on time. Its ridiculous...

By my reckoning there is about 8-10 extra minutes built into the schedule between Woy Woy and Central,-Say 16 minutes a day, 80 minutes a week we spend sitting on a train for no good reason.

The new timetable is robbing commuters of time they could be using with their families at home.

Why do trains that occasionally leave Central ,Or Woy Woy 5 minutes late, still have time to kill at stations en route waiting for the timetable to catch up,

Why does it take up to 80 minutes for a train to travel the 75 kms between Woy Woy and Central in the year 2006???,Work it out, it averages about 57 kms /hour.

That's dark age stuff, trains are slower now than fifty years ago,we crawl along at times for kms and kms and still get there "On time",

So ,commuters are not stupid, we realise that Railcorp has performed a sleigh of hand timetable/card trick to give the illusion trains are now running on time ,jiggling the scheduled travel times to cover inefficiency and bad management, they do not deserve any fare rise until they can prove a REAL improvement in travel times, to the standards demanded by commuters in other developed countries,and a return to a honest ,transparent rail network that strives to get rail users home quickly and reliably.