

**David Khoury**

I have to say this OffPeak fare increase is encouraging. Encouraging me to find alternatives to the CityRail system, that is. It will now work out cheaper for me to drive into Ultimo to visit friends, instead of catching the train to Central. There is also the added bonus of not being stuck on the Central platform on the return trip, as yet another late evening train down the Bankstown line, is cancelled or running out of timetable order.

One wonders how CityRail can ask for any increase in OffPeak prices, when they have cut the number of OffPeak services, and are also trying to encourage commuters back to the train system. The mind further boggles at the 25% increase that is being asked for.

In almost every major city in the world that I have been to, the public transport system is much cheaper, and also better serviced! Madrid was wonderful with their Metro system. The Vancouver SkyTrain was cheap and efficient, with trains arriving every 4 minutes in peak hour, and every 8 minutes until late night. The Singapore SMRT system is fast, cheap, and easy. Heads and shoulders above the Sydney rail system.

Surely Sydney should be able to match, or better, these other systems. Or at least, stop asking for outrageous price increases when offering a lesser service. We are one of the best cities in the world, after all.

Cheers,  
dave