

**Francine Haywood**  
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Railcorp fare rises

Dear Sir,

I use the train everyday, mainly from Lewisham to the City and I do not see any marked improvement justifying the rise in train fare. These are the reasons why I do not agree with a rise in fares:

The trains are still overcrowded, dirty and lacking ventilation. In very high heat: when air conditioning breaks down and it is not possible to open windows, it so suffocating and unbearable, even cattle would be treated more humanely.

Recently several compartment's doors were shut with yellow tape, and I have had to run to distant compartments, with heavy luggage in hand. This has happened several times, and it is very unsafe for elderly passengers.

Trains are constantly not running in the week-ends, I do not understand why Railways buses leave at a later time than the normal time table when they are slower than trains? some people work in the week-end, not only are we inconvenienced but we are made constantly late.

Trains are now less frequent which is inconvenient, if a train is cancelled which happens still often, we have to wait even longer for the next train.

Announcements are not made when trains are late, or they are made too late, which leaves us stranded for 15mn or more on the platform when we could have taken an alternative transport and not being late if told on time (there is a bus stop a minute away from the station).

Screens showing train arrivals are often wrong at Central station on week-ends, I have seen screens showing train arriving in 3 minutes, for 10 minutes or more.

Town Hall platform is so overcrowded at peak hours it is a miracle no accident has happened yet.

When on the train, stations are often not announced so we have to look through the window to find out where we are, this is hard at night, and it is difficult for foreigners who do not know the city.

I used to live in Japan, the train system works perfectly there, trains are spotless, always on time, rain or shine, even in typhoon season. Here a small rain makes the train late, it is ridiculous: in Japan, there is extreme heat and extreme cold, still there does not seem to be any problem with the rails buckling. Air conditioning works well too. I think Railcorp should send a team there to study how to improve the rail system in Sydney.

The only time the train worked well was during the Olympic Games, we only did it to show off to other countries how fantastic Sydney transport is , poor buggers don't know this was all an illusion and a great lie! Still this shows it can be done.

I won't mind train fare rises when trains are clean, not so crowded, well ventilated, on time and more frequent.

Yours faithfully,

Francine Haywood