

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am not normally pre disposed to airing my views in a public forum, but the thought of an increase in the cost of rail transport based on what the service actually delivers has prompted me to forward you my opinion.

Firstly I live at Stanmore & depend on public transport, as I do not have a car. I normally purchase a red weekly travel pass, for \$32.00. I strongly object to any prospect of a fare increase based on the following reasons.

1. Why should I pay more for a reduced service?

Since the introduction of the new timetable I have had the 08:30am weekday service cut, so that now I only have the 08:20 or 08:40 service to utilise to get to work. The 08:30 service that no longer runs was perfect for me to get to work on time.

State Rail has cut weekend services so that instead of a train every 15 minutes, they now run every 30 minutes, to me this defies logic as I would have thought that encouraging consumers to abandon cars in favor of public transport over the weekend would have been a positive, and concrete step towards reducing green house emissions.

2. On time performance

I do applaud the fact that trains have become more reliable in terms of on time performance, however trains are still frequently running late particularly in the mornings. The 08:40 train is often late by 4 to 6 minutes, which doesn't seem like much, but means that when the train is late then I'm late to work.

3. Weekend Track work

I understand that Sate Rail needs to upgrade and maintain it's service, but Stanmore is regularly closed on the weekends for maintenance, I am sure State Rail notifies consumers of this, but for some reason I never seam to know until I see the track work sign on the station on the day of travel. The buses that are provided don't run to the same timetable as the trains, so I invariably end up being late for any appointments I may have. The Buses only go to Central adding extra time to my journey.

4. Quality of Service/ Standard of Product

The reduced timetable means that trains are more crowded, and air conditioned trains, particularly on the weekend are almost non-existent. This means, a very hot and uncomfortable journey.

I strongly object to the proposition of an increase in fares based on the above reasons of reduced service, on time performance and lack of a quality service

Thank You

Garnet O'Neill