

To whom it may concern,

I write to you with regard to the proposed train fare increases across the CityRail network later this year. I must emphasise that such an increase is highly ill-considered and should be abandoned.

As a school student living in Mount Colah, an outer Sydney suburb, I travel regularly on trains as my primary means of transport, including frequent evening and weekend travel. In addition, my family uses public transport for travel to and from work. Despite claims for cheap travel costs on CityRail, this travel still has a considerable cost, especially for students who do not earn a regular income.

In addition I still find the train services to be infrequent and unreliable, with only one train every half hour to my station *even in peak hour*. On my travel home from Hornsby of an afternoon, trains are frequently late or cancelled, with stations beyond Hornsby seen as unimportant. Admittedly it has improved since the new timetable was introduced, but it is still unacceptable.

Finally, the government is commonly coming under fire for public transport, with under usage of the system as more and more people choose private vehicles for travel. It is no wonder, with the unreliability of services, and an increase in train fares will only further the departure from train travel. If the government and CityRail want more passengers on their trains, increasing fares is not the way to go about it!

Surely it is clear that a fare increase on trains is not only unnecessary, it is quite clearly a highly undesirable choice, and I hope that this proposition will be scrapped before it harms Sydney's public transport system even more.

Yours sincerely,

Gregor Newton