

Keith Dobinson
25/03/2006

Proposed increase in RailCorp fares

Dear Sir/Madam,

I understand that RailCorp's justification for the proposal to increase fares is based on a claim that services have been improved. This is not the case.

Please refer to the information printed in the current Timetable for the Western Line, particularly page 2 where it states "Customers should note that connections are not guaranteed and trains may not be held in the event of late running services." This has particular implications for passengers on the Richmond Line who are now not guaranteed a service that will ensure their return home (after working shift work or attending sporting and theatre events) beyond the train leaving Central at 8.40pm, Monday to Friday. It is now possible, because of the lack of guaranteed connections, that passengers travelling to Richmond could be stranded at Blacktown from midnight until 4.51am.

Not only that, the timetable that was implemented on 4th September 2005 has meant increased travel times for all trains from and to Richmond. And the last train each night (that used to leave the city at about 11.30pm) has been cut out altogether.

All of these changes have resulted in a reduction in services, not an improvement.

The proposed increase in fares is therefore not justified. Please consider the facts of the situation facing passengers in assessing RailCorp's submission.

Yours faithfully
Keith Dobinson