

19/03/2006 06:55 PM

Increase City Rail

Dear Sir,

I am quite shocked to think that City Rail is considering a fare increase. All that has changed is the time table! meaning fewer trains. I catch the train from Caringbah to Martin Place. The train is always late, and **dirty** first thing in the morning! Among other things there are at least 2 seats that are usually always broken, grafitti, bubble gum on windows. I cannot understand how a morning train can be in such a disgusting condition.

Why are there still trains with no airconditioning? The over crowding in the afternoon service is at a dangerous level! It is only a matter of time before we have another disaster. Also, when there is a problem with the trains, signal delays ect. City rail is completely incompetent! The message at Martin Place station, which supposedly gives you the alternative transport arrangements is always wrong!

Two months ago there was a signal problem. The sign at Martin Place said " go to Central and change platforms to no 23. Because I have had plenty experience with "wrong information", I ignored this.

Lucky I did because the crowds at Central trying to change platforms was dangerous. I was frightened. A train finally pulled in after 10 minutes, usual platform 24 and the only reason I was able to board the train was because one person left the carriage and I happened to be standing directly in front of the door.

Never in my experience have I witness such over crowding. It was like a train in India! I was frightened and got off at Rockdale and phoned home to be collected!!

I complained to the Manger at Martin Place the following morning and wrote letters to the Transport Minister and telephoned ABC radio, all of which have been ignored. How can you possible increase fares with a system that is getting worse!

Yours sincerely  
Laila Hachem