

MALCOLM TIBBITTS
29/03/2006

Train Fare Increases

To whom it may concern,

I would like to register my complete opposition to the proposed Iemma government train fare increases.

I am one of many 'peak-hour' Blue Mountains commuters who have been totally inconvenienced by the new train time table. The current timetable has not solved any of the commuters issues, in fact it has actually compounded & increased them by;

A) Increasing the amount of passengers on the train by stopping at extra stations. The Blue Mountains commuters now have to compete with Penrith passengers (who have their own peak-hour services) on Blue Mountains trains as well as have their journey home prolonged by stopping at Penrith!!

Effectively the Iemma government has 'hijacked' Blue Mountains services in a grubby vote grabbing exercise for the benefit of Penrith voters & to cover up their incompetence in being unable to provide decent services for both Penrith & Blue Mountains commuters.

The real "kick in the arse" for commuters at some Blue Mountains stations, is that their own peak-hour services transport people to Penrith, but do not stop at all Blue Mountains stations - how can the Iemma government make their motives any more transparent??!!

B) Train delays and cancellations are now exactly the same as on the previous timetable services, including being stuck behind an all stops train so that our so called express service is constantly held up between stations AND already run 10 minutes later than previously, causing nothing but inconvenience & frustration to people who just want to get home as quickly as possible.

C) Carriages are regularly missing from trains (eg 6 car instead of 8 car trains) & services can be cancelled without notice.

So what is the difference between the current & the previous time-table?

The current time-table is an insult to the intelligence of any thinking person & is made infinitely worse by suffering commuters having to listen to the Transport Minister bleating on in Parliament & to the press about "on-time running" that is defined according to the Ministers whim & customer satisfaction surveys that are conducted under the most suspect of circumstances.

I would ask you to reject the proposed fare increase as a favour and a duty to suffering Blue Mountains commuters.