

Margaret-Anne Hutton
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Don't increase Sydney Fares

They definitely don't deserve any more of our money and I would begrudge any politician or bureaucrat benefitting financially from the weekly agony of commuters.

I would want to see consistent service for at least twelve months before granting a fare increase. Train services have been especially woeful since August 2003.

But I will only give the most recent examples of ineptitude from the beginning of this year (with a little curry from last year).

I travel from Minto and have to go to great length sometimes to catch some services.

Today March 22, 2006: Caught 7.21 am service to Blacktown to change and catch 7.33 City Express via Airport from Glenfield.

Result: Train on a super go slow from Bardwell Park to Central - normal time in 8.16 am, today 8.26 am. 10 minutes late, thank you very much.

March 21, 2006: 7.21 am from Minto cancelled.

March 15, 2006: 7.21 am from Minto cancelled. Forced to catch 7.33 am from Minto to City via Sydenham. Runs 15 - 20 minutes late due to signal failure. Amid a morning of commuter chaos on Illawarra and Lidcombe lines.

March 14, 2006: 7.21 am from Minto cancelled.

Feb 28, 2006: 7.33 am Millenium train from Glenfield to City via Airport. Carriage defect on D1004 - alarm went off in empty guards compartment between Padstow and Riverwood. And it couldn't be turned off until we reached Domestic terminal.

Two occasions in February the 7.18 am and 7.21 am services are cancelled and the Express Train from Campbelltown that normally picks up passengers at Glenfield at 7.33 am, is rescheduled to do an all stations pick up from Minto to East Hills with an altered stopping pattern to City via Sydenham.

January 27, 2006: Caught 7.18 am service from Minto, but when we got to Glenfield were advised that the service's first stop would be Central via Sydenham. Didn't tell us of course that it was being diverted via Bankstown. Normal scheduled arrival time is 8.05 am. Actual arrival time 8.55 am.

Also, from about March of 2004 I started making complaints about the condition of Minto Station's free commuter carpark at the corner of Redfern and Minto Roads Minto. But it wasn't until I got desperately ill in July/August 2005 and with the constant illegal parking of some commuters within the carpark 'Blocking In' other commuters cars, especially mine, that action was finally forth coming in November, after a ping pong match between Campbelltown Council and SRA disavowing ownership of the carpark. I had to practically threaten an

incident of 'Car Park rage' in order to get any one to accept responsibility and take appropriate action.

But after being advised to contact the South Line area manager, he explained that it really was Campbelltown Council's carpark and that the SRA had a 'handshake deal' with them to lease it, with Campbelltown Council supposedly to remain responsible for its maintenance. And of course this was done in the mid 80's and no paperwork ever transpired to seal the deal.

How's that for examples of SRA incompetence.

If you would like my address, I will supply separately on request by reply email.

Yours Sincerely

Margaret Hutton