

**Mark Stephens**

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Fare increase

Dear Ipart,

As a daily commuter between Birrong and Circular Quay I have seen the service degrade to the point we have to use a car rather than train and are considering moving to another suburb without train service.

One of my main concerns is that now a lot of the services have been cancelled, the trains run early.

That's right, you now have to arrive 10 minutes before your train is due to arrive or you will miss it.

Why run 8 car carriages before 6:00am and 6 car trains at 5:00pm?

The old trains smell and why must the all stops service have the older trains with no ventilation or Aircon during the hottest part of the day?

Another observation, it takes less time to get to Blacktown than Birrong since the limited stop services were removed.

At this point, I'd also like to add, do you think fining a 14 year old school child \$200 when they haven't even got the train fare is the solution?

Only in as far that CityRail has effectively licensed thugs to take money from people to pay their own wage.

Is evidence that CityRail is investing the money wisely but putting the non-slip surfaces along the platforms that are more slippery in the wet than the surfaces they replaced?

Further to this, it is apparent there is a lot of money being spent on track maintenance but so far, has not resulted in any upgraded service.

In parting, The fare increase is not justified unless the service is increased and the current train service is pathetic.