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I am appalled that City Rail is considering raising fares. I have lived on the Central Coast for 8 years now and have not seen any improvement in rail services over that time, but fares have still gone up. In fact, the service has deteriorated. There are fewer trains now and many are now less than 8 carriages long, so commuters are packed in like sardines, with many having to stand for long distances. The time taken to travel from Gosford to the city has not improved in 8 years and has got slower.

If this was a private business, you would expect to see improvements in return for increased costs.

I have listed some specific instances below.

My morning train from Gosford was late getting to Wynyard 3 days in a row last week, one day by 30 mins.

I used to catch a 6.30 train from Wynyard that went all the way to Gosford, but this was cancelled in the new timetable. I now get the 6.30 Country train from Central. However, this train used to be eight carriages long, but in recent weeks it is only 4 carriages long. People have had to stand up from Central. So instead of 2 trains of 8 carriages, we now have one train of 4 carriages – during peak hour!!

I'm sure our fares also pay for the Transit officers. While its nice to know there are people on the trains like that, their attitude is terrible. Sleeping commuters are rudely woken up, people without tickets are treated badly, ganged up on, intimidated and threatened. There doesn't seem to be a valid excuse for not having a rail ticket. Why is it necessary for more than 2 transit officers to be on one train? They seem to hunt in packs of 3 or 4 or more.