

Patrick O'Connor-Davis
28/03/2006

Proposed Cityrail Fare Increase

To Whom it may Concern,

I believe that RailCorp's Proposed fare increase has to be a joke. I simply find it completely unbelievable that they think it appropriate to increase fares, when in my opinion, their service is far less than acceptable. I recently read an article wherein it was stated that "trains were running at 130% capacity" and it claimed that this figure was completely acceptable – as a regular commuter on the East Hills line, and on the Liverpool (via Bankstown) line- as well as an occasional traveller on the Waterfall- Bondi junction line, I must state that being pressed up against the wall or window for more than an hour, with literally no space to move, and barely enough space to breathe is not an acceptable figure.

These exceptionally overcrowded trains have caused me to feel nauseous due to overheating (largely hanks to windows that will not open, and air-conditioning that doesn't work, or is simply ineffective when presented with such an overcrowded train) and on one occasion I actually passed out on one of these trains. I found it very ironic that when I came to, it was not to any concerned onlookers or an ambulance crew, but to the faces of those standing around me in the train, barely paying attention- the press of bodies in the carriage actually kept me standing!

On several occasions (especially on the Waterfall-Bondi line) I have been forced to delay my journey as I was literally unable to board a train owing to the sheer mass of people within. Perhaps we need staff to push us into the train, such as on the Tokyo subway, or perhaps we should be allowed to cling to the sides of the train, as they do in India.

Since the introduction of the new timetable, train running times have improved marginally, but once again, it seems the delays, breakdowns and cancellations that do occur always happen during the peak hour, when commuters can least afford these delays. I have had a formal warning as to tardiness as a result of Cityrail's shoddy, inferior, and already overpriced service. This timetable would still be better, however they have cut so many services that the services that remain are horrendously overcrowded

Cityrail seems to spend more money on self-advertising, or its precious "revenue protection officers" than on actually giving the customers anything more than a barely acceptable (at best) service.

I am a firm supporter of public transport, but if this fare rise is approved, I will surely have to find an alternate method of getting to work.

If RailCorp wishes us to pay substantially more for more of the same inferior services, perhaps they should show us they are worth it with what they have, first, as we already pay them more than they're worth.

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