

**Peter Needham**  
26/03/2006

Submission on rail pricing proposals

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to protest against the proposed rail fare rises, particularly the proposal to erode the financial advantage of travelling at off-peak times.

Efficient, affordable public transport is a public asset; getting commuters off roads is a public benefit. Encouraging rail commuters to travel at off-peak times helps everyone. These initiatives should be encouraged, not hindered. The greater the saving, the more the incentive. So why erode the saving?

An intelligent off-peak day-trip pricing system, offering an open pass to travel anywhere on the system after, say, 9.30am or 10am, at a reduced rate, would be a sensible option. Many urban railway networks offer these, often with zones attached, but they are notably absent in Sydney.

In the meantime, we could start by retaining -- and even enhancing -- the fare differential that encourages passengers to travel at off-peak times rather than peak times. Make it 40 per cent, at least.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Needham  
Thirroul