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Having travelled from the Central Coast to the city daily for the past sixteen years, I can only say that the service has deteriorated greatly within that time, and is almost as bad again as it was last year before the time and schedule changes. In the past couple of weeks I have been late home as many times as have been on time, and at least twice the train has been cancelled at Gosford for no given reason, apart from the fact it was a couple of minutes late.

I am now getting really angry with this service, and consequently the lack of communication, as I have a commitment that I can only get to on Monday and Wednesdays if the train is on time (according to the new schedule). Quite honestly, the train was better under the old timetable, even though it was more often than not late. Also the standard of trains available has really deteriorated as well over this period of time. Trains are now very very crowded and often, quite literally, filthy.

I cannot see any justification for a fare increase at this time, and not at all until service is really improved.

If less was spent on useless advertising, etc. that this money could be put to much better use in the areas where it is really needed.

As I mentioned earlier, service was much better when fares were \$17 a week for a weekly ticket (as opposed to the present \$52).

As you can possibly guess from the above, I am totally against a fare increase.

Susan Redgate