

"Trent W"

I find it most asusing that Railcorp want to put rail fares up. The fares are already too high for the service we receive, and they are always claiming to wanting to increase patronage. Well, raising fares is not the way to increase patronage, and might I recommend comparing Railcorps service to that the MTA in New York City.

Fares are a flat \$2 USD (Approx \$2.68 AUD) if you buy one fare at a time, meaning you can travel from as far north as the Bronx to as far south as West 8 street in Brooklyn. You can get an "unlimited ride" metrocard, the equivalent of a Traveypass or a "pay per ride" metro card, the equivalent of a travel 10. With the "per per ride" card if you put \$10 or more on your card you receive a 20 percent bonus. For example, a \$20 purchase gives you \$24 on your card, or, 12 trips for the price of 10, or \$1.66 USD (Approx \$2.22 AUD) per ride, even cheaper if you spend more. You can buy a variety of "unlimited ride" metrocards, including a 1 day, 7 day, 14 day, and a 30 day, providing great value. If you purchase a 30 day metrocard for \$76 USD, and use public transport twice a day, you are paying a mere \$1.26 USD per trip (Approx \$1.68 AUD)

Now what do you get for your MAXIMUM \$2 USD (Approx \$2.68 AUD) fare? During peak hour, services that come every 2 or 3 minutes. Even outside peak hour, your only going to have to wait 5 minutes. And this includes ALL of NYC, not just the CBD. I went to the Bronx on a Saturday afternoon, trains were going past every 5 minutes. The only time your going to have to wait more than this is between 10:00p.m and 5:30am.

If the MTA in NYC can provide this kind of serivce for a MAXIMUM of \$2 USD (Approx \$2.68 AUD), surely Railcorp can do better for what they are charging? I don't expect services to run every 2 or 3 minutes, but how about increasing services on lines that are only serviced every half an hour to every 20 minutes? Every 15 minutes would be better, but we can't expect too much, and maybe the lines that are currently serviced every 15 minutes could be serviced every 10? Notice I am suggesting INCREASING services, not reducing them, and Railcorp shouldn't use "lack of patronage" as a reason to even thing about reducing services. If patronage is low, it is BECAUSE of the lack of service. I have a friend who borrows her flatmates car to visit me. She lives near a rail line, but avoids using it, BECAUSE the service is so bad, so don't use her lack of patronage as an excuse to make it even worse!

There is one exception to the flat \$2 USD (Approx \$2.68 AUD) fare in NYC.. the airport line. Thats \$5 USD (Approx \$6.70 AUD), just a bit cheaper than the \$13.40 I would have to pay to travel to Sydney Airport, and all that \$13.40 gets me is a normal train. They have special "traveller friendly" trains on the airport line in NYC.

Cityrail/Railcorp need to improve services dramatically before being allowed to increase fares, and probably should take a traip to NYC.

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