

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I understand that you intend increasing the fees of the Sydney Ferry Services. It is somehow believed that the ferry is a luxury form of transport used only by the rich (who can well afford to pay the extra).

Please don't do this.

While it is true that I live in a fairly affluent part of the universe -Cremorne Point- I work only part time and live in a bed-sit. Hardly a millionaire! Moreover I do not own a car and so am entirely dependent on Public transport. It is difficult enough already to pay for ferry travel – Already the fees are absolutely monstrous.

I work on the north side of Sydney -which explains why I live where I live but almost all my family lives on the south side. As such I regularly use the ferry. It takes me only minutes to get to the ferry by walking and 10 minutes gets me to Circular Quay. To go by bus would take me three times as long from here. But this is not the worst of it. After 9.00pm waiting for the Cremorne bus at Wynyard (usually the only city bus stop from which this bus goes) can be quite dangerous as it is often very lonely and isolated. After a bad experience I chose never to do that again at night. The ferry on the other hand is always safe and Circular Quay always full of people long into the night. The ferry is met at Cremorne by a bus which takes me safely to my door.

To say it is OK to raise the ferry fees because only the rich use this service is outrageous. Of course if you keep increasing the fees the rich will be the only ones able to afford this valuable public means of transport. But that means penalising in very big ways all the rest of us. And we all pay our taxes.

Again, please don't do this.

Leyla Spencer