

20 September 2006

Dear IPART,

The proposal to increase public transport fares is a misdirected attack on the cost of transport.

The real cost of transport that needs to be addressed is the environment cost - the burden of local pollution and global warming caused by the burning of fossil fuels.

Rather than increasing public transport costs and driving commuters into cars, the Tribunal should be recommending a revenue-neutral scheme in which fossil-fuel-burning private transport costs are increased so that the additional revenue can be used to keep public transport charges lower and fund additional public transport infrastructure. In addressing the cost of transport the Tribunal needs to fully recognise environmental costs and benefits. In doing so the Tribunal would make recommendations encouraging a move away from private and towards public transport use.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Hopper & Sharon Lambert