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31 August 2005

The Independent Pricing Tribunal
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Re: Revue on Bus and Ferry Fares

Late Submission

I do understand that this is a late submission but our committee did comment upon this during our June meeting and unfortunately due to overseas commitments and illness I have been unable to lodge our submissions until this date.

Reference is made to your advertisement in The Herald on 1 June 2005 in which comments were asked for with regard to the current fare basis for both buses and ferries:

We strongly object to any possible avoidance of time based fares and the use of a section based system.

It is our submission that the based system would encourage potential users to the public transport system, which has many advantages and allows people to move with some ease within the transport system, without having to be totally dependent on alighting or abandoning a method of transport to yet have to make another purchase of a fare to move to another location. This additional imposition upon people is the very reason that so many people do not elect to use public transport and, for sometimes insignificant journeys, resort to using their motor car.

The individual use of motor cars is a problem that is faced by all cities at the moment and any initiative that is proposed that will lessen the number of private individual trips in motor vehicles can only help in reducing traffic congestion and the ensuing grid lock that has been occurring in our cities for a number of years.

The idea of public transport is to combine these masses into a single controllable system and to make this as user friendly as possible. If we abandon of making our public transport user friendly then we will suffer the undoubted traffic that will ensue. Many cities overseas have already encountered problems, where they have abandoned public transport systems only to find that the alternative is even more unpalatable. This can easily be seen in the huge sprawl of cities such as Los Angeles USA.

I therefore strongly suggest that the system of time based fares be the practical foundation upon which we embrace a modern overall view of urban/suburban transport.

Yours faithfully
BRUCE GATGENS
Chair
Lake Macquarie Transport Task Force

Cc: Ken Freeston, Lake Macquarie Council
Len Regan, Transport Planners



**Lake Macquarie
Transport Taskforce**