

Email

15 August 2005 8.16 AM

To: ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Subject: IPART Fares Review 2005 – Lower Hunter

FROM COMMUTER COUNCIL

TO IPART ENQUIRY 2005

The Lower Hunter area has had public transport problems for many years.

Due to the provision of good roads, the lack of frequent public transport, and the cost of public transport, the outcome has been a gradually deteriorating public transport system.

Any increases in fares results in fewer passengers, and bigger losses in public transport operations.

At the same time those without access to cars find their mobility more and more restricted by reduced public transport.

As a result some members of the Commuter Council have been looking for solutions to this problem.

One of the possible solutions being investigated is the provision of free public transport.

This proposal would require a small levy addition to land rating, as well as reducing the operating costs of services and by making them more efficient.

It is considered that the elimination of the need to collect fares, would reduce substantially the cost of operations.

The staff currently used to collect fares could be diverted to public transport services, resulting in more frequent services and more patronage and consequent reduction in car use, accidents, and demand for high cost roadworks etc.

Thus It would seem that this project has the potential to substantially increase the use of public transport and improve mobility in the Lower Hunter and at the same time reduce the cost to public transport users.

Yours Faithfully,

Kevin Parish
Chair