

The Chairman,
IPART
Bus Fares Review 2008

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the review. I must apologise for the brief nature of the response given the proximity to the deadline for submissions.

Unfortunately I have to accept that it is inevitable that the Ministry of Transport submission will be passed, or at the very least fares will increase near to its request. However, as a passenger on the private bus system in Sydney the inequity with those on State Transit services is unacceptable. The TravelTen/TravelPass system has significant fare benefits which are unavailable for use on private buses.

I note at 2.5.5 in the Ministry's submission that multi-ride ticketing options will essentially not occur until T-Card is launched. I also note that a launch date no longer is provided, and with the project running at least seven years late and newspaper reports that it will not be in operation before 2009 it is hardly surprising. However, why should those passengers subject to the private bus system be discriminated against?

As an aside, the DayTripper ticket continues to be unusable to private bus users and my previous correspondence to the Minister on this topic was met with commentary on resolution once T-Card came in. I would suggest that there is a pattern with Sydney's ticketing options and the non-existent T-Card is to be a cure all. But when?

Until then the discrimination to private bus passengers continues. The Government's proposal to do nothing is unacceptable. Whilst you cannot fix the problem, I urge you to make suitable comment in your finding that the Government must address this issue in a timely fashion.

Thank you and regards

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