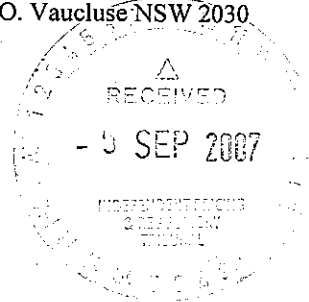


The Vacluse Progress Association

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Mr J Cox, Chief Executive Officer
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Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
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Review of bus and ferry fares

Our interest in this review relates to the fares for Sydney Buses serving the areas of Vacluse and Watsons Bay, in Sydney's eastern suburbs. We use various bus, ferry and train services to move to and from the central business district, as well as private vehicles on the highly congested peninsula roads.

We invite the Tribunal to address directly the issue of creation of an integrated fare structure for public transport services in the Sydney metropolitan area, such that fares are determined not by reference to individual trips undertaken by individual modes of transport but by reference to journey length, time of travel, and similar parameters. That is, we invite the Tribunal to consider public transport as a whole, not in isolation of its constituent parts.

It appears that the present disjointed and fragmented approach to fare-setting reflects the historical division of public transport tasks as well as the nature and formalities of the current regulatory regime. We view the public transport task as being one which ideally is undertaken by specialised units co-operating to provide meshed services and service options that meet the highly varied requirements of the public in an efficient and economic manner.

The complexity of the fare systems presently applicable to the different modes of transport is one important aspect which hinders the development of a simple inter-modal ticketing system quite independently of the fortunes of the firm contracted to develop the system. The same complexity also penalises users whose journeys might most efficiently be undertaken by using multi-modal travel.

The relatively small proportion of public transport enterprises' incomes derived from farebox revenue suggests that innovation in fare determination need not be unduly costly to Government.

We commend these views to the Tribunal.

Michael Rolfe, President

4 September 2007