

Rail Commuter Submission.  
05/11/2008

To whom it may concern,

I wish to protest against the proposed fare rises on the city rail network. I believe city rail has fallen behind in its primary function, moving people from one location to another in the fastest possible time. Now I have heard that cityrail actually wants to increase their fares. The fare increases are absolutely ridiculous and cannot be justified, considering we get a below average service that is already over priced.

As I write this letter we are currently travelling at about 8km an hour obviously 'riding the yellows' as a local train in front of us holds up traffic (yet again) on this two lane stretch between strathfield and eastwood. And I'm not exaggerating. Your trains are slow... stupidly slow, and nothing is being done to fix it.

Lets do some simple maths.

Assuming that the distance from the central coast to central is 75 Kilometres and that the train does an average of 60km/h this currently takes 1 hour and 15 min, not including stops. Thats **15 hours a week or 780 hours a year**. I come from germany, where the top speed of their trains is about 300km/h. If we had german trains with german infrastructure this would take the travel time to just under 15 min, not including stops. Thats 30 minutes of travel time a day or only 130 hours a year. Thats a 650 hour saving, or 27 days every year. Thats nearly a month that the central coast commuter gets back of their life, every year just because city rail puts some decent infrastructure in.

Unfortunately Cityrail has done very little to nothing to improve the rail system. In fact it seems to be getting slower More and more money is getting wasted on ridiculous ad campaigns telling students to watch out for their school bags and identifying people who talk loudly on their mobile phones that we already know about! The transit officers are a joke too, doing little to nothing to curve the often dangerous scenes commuters witness on the trains everyday. Yet these same transit police seem more than capable of raking in thousands of ticket offences everyday, even from people with genuine excuses. The trains we travel in are 20 years old and in the past month I have personally been affected by 20 seperate break downs that have delayed me for up to an hour from getting to and from work.

Come on city rail. Get your act together. How the heck can you in your wildest dreams even consider the idea that commuters will be approve the fare increases which will do NOTHING to speed up the trains, improve reliability, safety and give commuters a month of their lives back. For this wastage of my time you have lost my respect and the respect of the commuters around me, who just want to get home. I want to see real evidence that cityrail is committed to improving travel time to all commuters before I agree to a price hike.