

7 October 2008

Subject: Submission : Review of Cityrail fares, 2009-2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am making a Submission to the Review of Cityrail fares, 2009-2012.
Please make this document PUBLIC.

There are TWO THINGS I would like to bring to IPART's attention.

First, regarding Concession fares, it is stated on Page 143, that:

"While IPART's determination increases concession fares at the same rate as adult fares, IPART notes that over 90 per cent of concession users use single and return tickets, which on average have smaller increases than periodical tickets...."

You should note that NSW Government enforces a strict "Single ticket only" Concessions Policy. This means that *ALL* Concession tickets must be SINGLE or RETURN *ONLY*. Concession tickets cannot be WEEKLY's, MONTHLY, YEARLY's periodicals, or anything other than daily tickets.

THAT is why "...over 90% of concession users use single & return tickets..."

They have no choice!

Please ask the NSW State Government to change their Concession Policy, Rules & Regulations to ensure that Concession card holders can buy WEEKLY, MONTHLY & YEARLY tickets at concession rates.

Secondly, I urge IPART to ensure that Railcorp makes are *NO* fare increases until at least 2012.

Your IPART report stipulated that fares can increase at any time between 2009 and 2012.

So, make sure Railcorp increases it only in 2012 and thereafter.

Railcorp does not need a pay increase in 2009, 2010, or 2011. This is because their Capital projects are already fully funded in the NSW Government State budget, and further increases can come from COAG grants via the Federal Government budget.

As a result, there is no need to slug consumers for more money, until 2012.

Yours Sincerely,

Alex Portnoy