

4 October 2008

Subject: Re: "Review of CityRail fares, 2009-2012 - Draft Report and Draft Determinations - October 2008"

Thank you for sending me a link to the draft report "Review of CityRail fares, 2009-2012 - Draft Report and Draft Determinations - October 2008"

I wish to comment on Section 1.2, second paragraph.

Regarding the first bullet point - "the impact on the affordability of fares and the patronage of CityRail services", IPART should note that the greater the fares, the more people will want to use private transport, especially since the service provided is not good (trains overcrowded).

Regarding the second bullet point - "the urgent need to create effective incentives for CityRail to reduce its costs by increasing its economic efficiency". The urgent need is to get people out of private transport and into public transport. "Economic efficiency" looks like code for increase in fares. It is not possible to reduce costs by increasing income. Cost reduction is achieved by greater efficiency.

Regarding the third bullet point - "the need for passengers and taxpayers to each fund an appropriate proportion of the costs of providing CityRail services that reflects the level of benefits individual users and the wider community derive from these services":

(1) The word "appropriate" is code for subjective judgement. In these times of global warming it is appropriate to subsidise public transport and tax private transport.

(2) The "benefit" to society stems from an attempt to reduce carbon emissions. The consequence of not doing so are catastrophic. Already global warming has produced a positive feedback (tipping point) in which, for example, methane is now leaking into the atmosphere from melting permafrost.

IPART should recognise that there is an urgent need for a revolution in our attitudes and a rapid retreat from our fossil-fuel-dependent culture. IPART should make this recognition known to the NSW government. Failure to do so is criminal negligence.

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