

16 October 2008

The Commissioner
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Commissioner

RE: RAILCORP FARE INCREASE OBJECTION – NEW YEAR 2009.

I would like to advise my dissatisfaction with the proposed increase to train fares slated to happen at the start of the 2009 calendar year.

As you will note from my personal address, I travel from the Central Coast on a daily basis and believe that the current \$58.00 weekly ticket (plus an additional \$30 in bus fares) is more than a sufficient price to pay to commute to my place of work. I travel approximately 4.25 hours a day on the rail network plus an additional hour on the bus.

Your report states that average commuter household income averages around \$97,917 – are you people insane!!!! If people were in fact earning anywhere in that vicinity they would drive to work, not catch an overcrowded train. I'd like to know who you surveyed because it certainly wasn't anyone on my train!!!

The track work which we are subjected to is a prime example as to why a rate rise on our line is not required. On the Sydney metropolitan lines, track work takes place of an evening, on the weekend and during off-peak times. Not only do you inconvenience us by messing with our peak time trains you also increase our trip times by approximately 1 hour a day making an already excruciatingly long trip an even longer trip.

Our trains are freezing in summer and freezing in winter – 2 hours each way is a long time to be cold.

Plus, unlike some of the more privileged commuters where 99.9% of trains stop at their station ie. Tuggerah, Wyong, Wyee - I am forced to get off at Wyong and change trains to go to Warnervale (which is between Wyong and Wyee and which adds an additional 15 minutes to my travel when I could have been at home with my feet up.

Your service is slow, dirty and oftentimes running late. The night of the floods in Newcastle it took me 6 hours and 45 minutes to get home. On a daily basis the 6.32am from Warnervale is guaranteed to be running between 5-10 minutes late with no explanation. Unfortunately this means that people with no job flexibility have been forced to get an even earlier train to ensure they reach their work on time due to the unreliability of service arrival times at Central.

With ever increasing mortgage stress, fuel costs blown out of proportion and excessive tolls on most of the current transport arteries, can you even hope to justify slugging the public again for travelling on inadequate, unreliable and uncomfortable public vehicles.

If you would like me to pay more for my travel I would like to be able to put my feet up on the seats so I may ease my imminent deep vein thrombosis from extended periods of travel.

I trust my feelings on the fare increase are outlined as plainly as possible above.

Kind regards

Yours faithfully
Megan Fox