

28 October 2008

Subject: CityFail Fare Review - 2009 - 2011.

To whom it may concern,

This is the last straw, as a CityFail commuter I have had enough. I understand that the budget is now substantially in the red, this is not our fault (the commuter). At the end of the day, this is a public transport service not a private enterprise. There are no shareholders to report to, no registered financial interests to pander to. It is a matter of public record that the CityFail network has been shockingly mismanaged, how is it that we should bear the burden of this shocking state of affairs?

Sydney cannot exist without CityFail, this puts it in a unique position of total market dominance, the only alternative is to drive. Sydney's road network is not dealing with the current traffic levels, what will happen with a 25% rise in fares? I would estimate some 25% increase in traffic, totally the opposite of what the State Government is trying to achieve.

Perhaps if something was done for us that justified the increases, then that would be a different debate, and one on the merits of completed work, not the hot air of bloated executives. I have had enough of trains in summer with no cooling, in winter with no heating, services that don't arrive and services that are constantly late. In the past two weeks I have been unable to obtain a seat for a 115min journey 10 times.

I ask that IPART reject this ridiculous fare increase, it is the direct responsibility of CityRail to plan its budget and manage it through the year, as it is with households and businesses across the country, what makes CityFail so special?

In closing I also remind IPART that we stand upon the precipice of a global recession, massive job losses and ruined super funds, in fact a global financial crisis. We don't have the additional funds these greedy fat cats are chasing!