

To whom it may concern,

I would like to register my objection to the latest attempt by the NSW Government to rise bus and ferry fares.

The grounds of my objection are;

- The system is already relatively expensive. Public transportation should be heavily discounted to encourage commuters to use it. When costs go up people will abandon the system to use their own vehicles. The rise of fares will therefore go against principles of environmental sustainability.
- Public transportation should be provided as a service to taxpayers, not a source of revenue for the government. If the government claims that the public transportation system needs more money and hence the attempted fare rise, they should seek revenue sources that don't punish the users of the most efficient system for moving people, but rather those who don't use it. I.e. tax revenue raised by roads, cars and tolls should contribute to public transportation costs.
- Sydney will increase in population by 10,000 people per year until 2010. A raise in fares will reduce the number of people traveling by public transport, encourage people to use their own vehicles, roads will become more congested than ever before.
- If you ask transport planners and other experts, they advise that public transportation should be discounted and cheap to encourage its use. Raising fares will not achieve this.

I ask that you do not allow bus and ferry fares to be allowed to rise because the NSW Government seeks to run public transportation as a private business. It should not raise fares and discourage users of a system that moves the largest number of people in the most efficient manner.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Todd Robinson