

The latest increase in fares is unjustified considering the current standard of public transport in Sydney compared to other metropolitan cities such as Melbourne. The NSW government has failed to meet performance benchmarks consistently in the past and instead of raising its performance, it chose to "move the goalposts" by lower the standards to a level it could meet.

It has treated the travelling public with contempt with its attitude twisting its statistics to suit its purpose.

Nowhere but Cityrail classify its services as ontime, even if it was late by up to five minutes. If I had this attitude at my workplace then I would find myself quickly unemployed.

There is still not an integrated ticketing system across the public transport network, separate tickets required for buses, ferries and trains. In Victoria & Queensland, they have adopted integrated ticketing systems and a fairer method of pricing with the Zone system and the ability to purchase 2 hour tickets or daily tickets which are by far more user friendly than the Sydney's public transport system.

Sydney also has a record amount of tollroads forcing people on modest incomes to catch public transport due to the prohibitive cost of using a car. The government seems to be trying to increase the cost of public transport to make travelling by private car more attractive.

The NSW government continually state that IPART price rises are modest but the average commuter is suffering under record mortgages, increased cost of living and rising petrol prices. It is causing financial stress in a lot of households especially those with modest means of income, it is simply "death by a thousand cuts" rather than one big cut.

It is hypocritical of the NSW government to continually jack up the price of travel while the politicians enjoy taxpayer provided chauffeur driven vehicles and not have to endure the daily grind of public transport. The daily trip into the city is getting longer and longer while becoming more expensive and has given me pause to consider driving into the city again.

The public transport network is an essential service provided by the taxes we pay, it should be encouraging more people to use its services by lowering prices rather than trying to raise them and discouraging people back into their cars.

It is there to provide a service not to make a profit.

Roland Pok
Beaumont Hills