

Peter Jones
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City Rail Fare Increase Not Supported

To Whom It May Concern

I am one of the thousands of passengers travelling by city rail each week. I live in Hazelbrook in the Blue Mountains and travel an average of 2.5hrs door - door where I work in Nth Sydney.

The trains that are used on the inter urban line are some of the filfiest trains I've ever had to take. Every day its the same, and the stench that comes from the toilets on board is totally unacceptable. With the introduction of the new timetable my journey home now makes additional stops at what City Rail call "Pick up Stations only" Strathfield, Parramatta, and Penrith. Pick up only meaning that passengers who live in these suburban stations are not meant to alight from the train here.

Since its inception, passengers travelling to the mountains, frequently are unable to gain a seat due to the now overcrowding of the service, any passenger caught alighting from these stations on a suburban ticket is opening themselves up to a fine, yet not once have I ever seen the traffic police issue fines to anyone. On average Penrith station sees around 30 -40 passengers exiting the train each day, now if City rail did what they say they would do and issue these fines they would certainly increase some revenue and discourage this practice.

I'm not sure what the fine is, lets say its \$85 X 30 passengers a day X 5 Days a week Total \$12,750 X that again by 52 weeks and that a whopping \$663,000 that could then be spent on improving the service. Traffic police, inspecting tickets on the train just skim over the ticket, and traffic police on Penrith station just stand by and watch all these passengers alighting from a service that is "Pick Up Only" and never have any of them pulled anyone aside or stopped and warned of fines.

It would be like me catching the XPT from Central and getting off at Penrith using my weekly mountains train ticket, I'm not allowed to and would receive a fine if I was caught at Penrith.

Instead of increasing fares, start issuing the fines for which they are in place to discourage practices against the terms and conditions of using City Rail services.

Another point on my service, why does this train stop at Suburban stations as pick up only, and then travelling through the mountains it skips one station in the mountains, Linden. All the Linden passengers are advised to get off the train at Woodford and then catch another train back to Linden, however as the services run late, even its just by a few minutes which seems to acceptable to city rail meaning the person waiting for the next train has to now wait another train to get home.

Trains to the blue mountains as well as the other outer suburban stations run nowhere as frequently as suburban trains during peek hour, yet now our services have to endure more passengers from suburban lines as City Rail

spreads the over crowding of these services over to services such as mine, and tries to defend itself using the so called "pick up station only policy" which in my view and the view of other passengers a complete joke, which is why many each day make a mockery of the policy and travel on a service where they know full well city rail have no power to issue the fines against the service.

Clean more hygienic services, less disruptions to the services, less faulty services and only then should any fare increase be considered. When is one day a real survey will be done as to the state of the rail system?

Regards
Peter Jones