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Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of New South Wales
Level 2, 44 Market Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Determination of CityRail and STA Fares

This is a submission from the Wollongong University Postgraduate Association (WUPA) with regard to the maximum fares for declared government monopoly passenger transport services to be charged from 1 September 2003 by State Rail Authority CityRail services and State Transit Authority bus and ferry services.

WUPA is the representative body for over 3500 postgraduate students at the University of Wollongong.

Our submission pertains to the exclusion of International Students and Night-time students from student concessions for CityRail and STA fares.

We would like to bring to the Tribunal's attention that several thousand International Students are enrolled full time in a course of study at the University of Wollongong (UoW), many of whom travel daily from Sydney to the Wollongong campus or from Wollongong to the Sydney Business School of the University. However, at present these students are ineligible for student travel concessions. International Students make a significant contribution to the Australian economy by way of income taxes, upfront education fees for school aged children, University fees and finally consumption of goods and services.

The current policy of excluding international students of the New South Wales State from travel concessions discriminates full time Australian university students for their nationality status or the state they reside. The policy also discriminate between domestic students studying day or night-time, as the latter ones are not receiving the travel concession.

The Wollongong University Postgraduate Association requests that the Tribunal award concession on CityRail and STA fares to all the University full-time Students in Australia regardless their nationality or timetable so as to ensure equity and equality in the distribution of entitlements.

The Association looks forward to the Tribunal's determination,

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Capararo', written in a cursive style.

Donna Capararo

President, Wollongong University Postgraduate Association