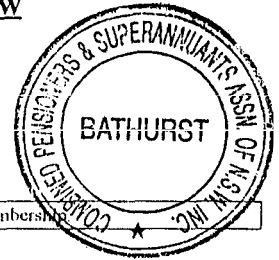


**COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW**

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**BATHURST BRANCH**  
**298 HOWICK STREET**  
**BATHURST 2795**



PRESIDENT: Alf Goodlet 6331 1584 VICE PRESIDENT: Margaret Maughan 6331 5813  
SECRETARY: Beryl Turnbull 6332 1828 VICE PRESIDENT: Lindsay McKellar 6331 8945

BATHURST CPSA is a non-sectarian non-party political organisation caring for the welfare of its pensioner and self-funded retirees members.

**CURRENT BATHURST MEMBERSHIP: 497**

TOGETHER WITH



**BATHURST PUBLIC TRANSPORT INITIATIVE**

*Moving our City into the 21st Century*

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BATHURST 2795

BPTI AFFILIATES

Combined Pensioners and Superannuation Assoc, Bathurst Branch  
Bathurst University of the 3rd Age Inc.  
Bathurst and District Tidy Towns Association Inc  
Country Women's Assocn of NSW, Eathurst  
Lachlan Regional Transport Committee  
Bathurst City Amateur Swimming Club Inc  
Transport Authority Retired Employees, Eathurst  
Bathurst Community

Interagency Group  
Bathurst Senior Citizens  
Bathurst Community Transport Group Inc  
Technical Aid for the Disabled, Bathurst

Bathurst Employment and Training Services  
Glenray Industries Ltd  
Anglican Parish of Kelso

Bathurst City Basketball Assocn  
Bathurst Catholic Junior Tennis Club  
Community Tenancy Scheme Ltd

Ethnic Social Interlink Committee  
Solo House Inc  
Home Care Service of NSW, Eathurst  
Central West Womens Health Centre Inc

The Chiffley Village Inc  
Bathurst Friends of the Conservatorium

Association of Civilian Widows, Bathurst

Bathurst Legacy Widows Club  
Bathurst Information and Neighbourhood Centre  
The Aged Care Team  
Nippon Seniors Bathurst

Bathurst Business Enterprise

Centre inc  
Bathurst Parish of St Michael and John

Bathurst Conservation Group  
Charles Sturt University - Mitchell  
Association of Student Councils

Bathurst Parish of the Uniting Church  
Eglington Hall and Park Committee  
Anglican Parish of All Saints'

Cathedral  
Adolescent and Family Counselling Unit: Veritas House Inc  
Western Institute of TAFE

Bathurst College  
Raglan Public School  
P & C Association  
Kelso High School  
P & C Association

6th February 2002

Dr T Parry  
Chairman  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
PO Box Q290  
QVB PO, NSW 1230

Dear Dr Parry

The Bathurst Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association and the Bathurst Public Transport Initiative represent a significant proportion of the elderly population of this rapidly expanding city. This group is increasingly dependent on local public transport (private bus system) and regional/metropolitan transport (Countrylink and CityRail).

For some two years past our memberships have continually expressed concern at the inequities in public transport fares for Seniors and Pensioners(S/P) between the public (STA) and private bus systems and between regional, outer metropolitan and inner metropolitan bus and train systems.

The present situation is thus as we understand it:

1. Regional travellers are able to travel 129 kms by Countrylink on S/P concession fares for \$2.20 return, valid for seven days. While this is reasonable "deal" in closely settled areas, the inequity lies in villages and towns remote from large centres eg Nyngan-Dubbo, Wilcannia-Broken Hill, where the 129 km limit is meaningless.
2. While Bathurst is regarded as a CityRail station (except for XPT travel), Orange is not. The Bathurst S/P concession fare to the metropolitan transport system is \$3.30 day return, with unrestricted travel on trains, STA ferries and STA buses. Folk from Orange and beyond pay half the Countrylink fare plus \$1.10 for access to the metropolitan system. The latter folk are prevented from buying \$3.30 S/P concession at Bathurst unless they wait two or more hours for a CityRail coach change. (In effect they are inclined to drive to Bathurst or Lithgow for the S/P concessions.)
3. S/P concession travellers pay \$3.30 to, say, Penrith, plus a half-fare on local private buses, yet nothing more on reaching the STA system.
4. It is strongly evident that those who benefit most from the \$1.10 inner metropolitan S/P concession are Seniors in the increasingly affluent inner suburbs. However in the less affluent outer suburbs, S/P concession travellers pay a half-fare on private buses, plus \$1.10 (or more likely \$2.20) for travel on CityRail (eg Wollongong, Blue Mountains @ \$2.20)
5. Outer metropolitan CityRail S/P concession fares are \$2.20 even for travelling short distances (eg Blaxland-Penrith), whereas this distance in inner suburbs costs only \$1.10.
6. In regional centres no \$1.10 S/P concession is available as these centres are universally serviced by private operators.

We have discussed these inequities at length and make the following recommendations:

1. That the 10% GST be removed for S/P concession fares and included within rounded dollar fares. Thus the \$2.20 fare would become \$2 (actually \$1.80 + GST). This would bring concession fares roughly into line with inflation and the increase in pensions since 1988, which are in the range of 70%-75% over those fourteen years.

2. That the State be mapped in transport sectors of 100kms in both country and metropolitan regions, for which the minimum S/P concession would be \$2, consisting of a \$1 "flagfall"(or access)plus \$1 for each 100km sector.

3. That this increase when applied to inner metropolitan travel be used to subsidize the whole of the private bus and ferry systems which would then also charge the \$2 (\$1 + \$1) all-day S/P concession across all modes.

4. That these politically sensitive fare increases in the inner metropolitan region be rationalized as producing equity across the whole State, and are the first increase since 1988(when inner suburbs were less affluent in senior terms than they are now).By contrast they would be universally appealing in other areas.

It is noted that the Commonwealth Government had allocated some \$19million for the introduction of a National S/P concession (either as an election promise or a budget line?) provided all States adopted a uniform concession scheme.

Yours sincerely



A S Goodlet, President  
Bathurst C.P.S.A.



(Mrs) M Mauro, Hon Secretary  
B.P.T. I.