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Submission:

Review of fares for metropolitan and outer metropolitan bus services

Submission

I am a bus driver and have been working out of Waverley depot in the Eastern Region for the past 2 years. I will address the following issues raised in the issues paper.

1. We propose to allocate the efficient costs to be recovered from passengers and taxpayers on the basis of the external benefits of bus services in the 4 largest contract regions. Do stakeholders agree with this approach?

Cost recovery should be based on the 4 largest regions. As stated in your paper "they will travel by bus

when the costs and benefits are such that it is the best option for them". People in outer regions are not heavily impacted by external costs, like traffic congestion and parking. However there are people who require public transport as they cannot utilize alternate transport, like a private car, and some transport services need to be provided. Therefore pricing should be based upon regions where services are most efficient ie busses are fully loaded and high number of full fare paying passengers. Eg lower North shore

10 Are our proposed pricing principles relevant to determining fares for buses? Are there any other factors that we should take into account?

There are other factors which need to be taken into account.

Fare evasion:

Fare evasion in the Eastern suburbs appears to be quite widespread. This is caused by:

Tourists – tourists find the system confusing and often fail to pay the correct fare. Especially when they wish to purchase tickets from the driver.

Concession holders – bus drivers have enough to do operating a heavy vehicle in a congested busy environment without the need to confront passengers about concession issues.

Opportunity Riders – people who jump on the buss because they cannot get a taxi.

To alleviate these problems with the introduction of Opal Electronic ticketing Drivers should only sell single ride paper tickets which cover the cost of the full journey at the full fare price usually \$4.60. Concession Holders and PET can only be prepurchased. PET tickets ideally should be issued through Centerlink, and student tickets issued by educational institutions. Tourists should be encourage by price to purchase prepaid tickets.

SAFETY:

The selling of tickets by drivers on busy services in busy areas is very distracting for the driver and is a safety issue. Any fare adjustments which remove the task from drivers would reduce this problem. The sale of fixed price single ride tickets ie \$4.60. No confusion, no discussion, no change, Hey make it \$5.