

**Sent:** Thursday, 6 November 2008 12:16 PM

**Subject:** Public Transport- fares increase

IPART Train Fares increase: To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to an increase in fares for trains transport.

I have just paid \$12.20 to travel from my home in Wentworth Falls to my work in Parramatta, \$24.40 return.

Usually I buy a weekly and at \$58.00 it is only 10.60 return each day.

I have just started catching the train regularly this year and I am very impressed by the service.

Trains are always on time, sometimes a little crowded but overall the experience is very positive.

I am a convert and only very reluctantly would I ever drive my car to work again

As a society we need to be encouraging people to use trains and buses rather than cars.

If fares seem huge to consumers they will continue to use the mode that seems most convenient.

People are creatures of habit and slow to change their routines.

There needs to be a period of years where fares are kept low to encourage people to try public transport – to go the extra step that may not get them door to door but will also give them some exercise.

The Government needs to sell the benefits of public transport to individuals as well as the environment.

For instance, the healthiest communities are those with good public transport because people are walking more.

Public transport frees one's time to think, read, meet friends, send text messages – things you can't do driving a car.

Time on the train can be spent very productively work on their laptop – I am able to count my time working on the train as part of my hours – it is often my most focused time of the day to complete tasks uninterrupted.

I recommend train fares are kept to a minimum while we are in this period of attitudinal change towards widespread use of public transport.