

Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2008 7:06 PM

Subject: Fwd: Review of Cityrail Fares

I would like to submit that the proposed increase in CityRail Fares does not attribute the appropriate cost benefit to having low rail fares in the Sydney Metropolitan area and interurban services.

I understand that CityRail is an expensive service. But it is far less expensive than RTA and the environmental costs of not having an affordable public transport system. I live in an area where the cost of rail travel going up will mean more people will drive to the city. The access to having a cheap and reliable train service means that it is a viable alternative to the convenience of using a car.

I have to regularly travel across the city and cost is one of the factors that influences my choice of transport. The people I encounter using trains, particularly those that live in outlying suburbs cannot afford an increase in prices of the magnitude suggested.

To have a modern and safe system of public transport more people have to use it, even if that means passengers standing. An increase in fares will not deliver more services. It will however make commuters more dissatisfied with the services they have because they are paying more for what is a public service. The entire State benefits from high usage of public transport. Services may have less overcrowding as a result of this fare rise but it will be because those with other options are using them.