



Media Release

David Campbell MP

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Illawarra

NSW GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES SUBMISSIONS TO IPART DRAFT DETERMINATION

Friday 3 October 2008

Minister for Transport David Campbell is encouraging the public to make submissions to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, which today released its draft determination on increases to rail fares.

Mr Campbell said IPART's draft determination would see an average 7.9 per cent increase in fares (which includes inflation) from January 2009.

"While this is below increases previously flagged by IPART, I am still concerned about some of the individual price changes and who it is proposed should be paying more," Mr Campbell said.

"I am particularly concerned with IPART's proposed increases to the prices of weekly tickets for those travelling long distances on the network.

"I will be asking the Ministry of Transport and RailCorp to review this draft determination and examine ways to ease this burden for those travelling long distances on a regular basis.

"It is also clear from the information released by IPART today that we need to take a close look at trimming senior management at RailCorp and to level out what is clearly a top heavy organisation in its current structure."

IPART's fare determination applies to all passenger services supplied by CityRail and sets the maximum price that can be charged.

Mr Campbell said IPART's draft determination was based on a new structure which would deliver prices that vary according to the distance travelled by passengers.

"For instance IPART has proposed fare increases for those who travel within 35 kilometres of the city," Mr Campbell said.

"The increase for this shorter distance travel appears to be more in line with previous determinations made by IPART, especially when compared to the larger fare increases proposed on longer distance travel.

"We need to take a good look at the draft determination and I would encourage everyone affected by the changes to make a submission."

IPART is seeking comments on the draft report and determination, which it will consider before it makes a final determination in December.

For further information: **Brett Zarb – 0417 256 563**

Submissions are due by November 5 and can be emailed to ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au or faxed to 02 92902061. They can also be mailed to:

**CityRail form of regulation review
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office NSW 1230**

Mr Campbell said IPART had also released a report which sets out cost cutting measures to make RailCorp more efficient and also proposes changes to the way Government interacts with RailCorp.

“In my role as Transport Minister I am looking at a number of options to make RailCorp more efficient and to ensure that it is managed in the most effective way possible,” Mr Campbell said.

“One of the key elements, which I support, is ensuring there is openness and accountability.

“The Rees Government will be examining these suggestions very closely and will use this report to inform some future decisions which need to be made to deliver the best services possible for customers.”