

**INQUIRY INTO REMOVING OR REDUCING STATION
ACCESS FEES AT SYDNEY AIRPORT**

Name: Mr Chris Baker

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From: BAKER CHRISTOPHER PATRICK
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2013 11:56 AM
To: GPSC3
Subject: Inquiry into Removal of Station Access Fees at Sydney Airport Station

Dear Mr Griffith

I am writing in relation to the inquiry into the removal of station access fees at Sydney Airport railway station.

I strongly urge the removal of this fee for a number of reasons.

Firstly, the access fee means that a short train trip from the Airport Station to Central costs \$15.80. This is not only extortionate but is also a major impediment to Sydney's citizens and visiting tourists and businesspeople using the Airport rail service.

To highlight the extortionate ticket prices of airport service where access fees are levied, I would like to quote some single journey rail ticket prices from other international airports to their city centres:

- Amsterdam €3.60 (approximately AUD\$4.50)
- Berlin Schoenfeld €3.00 (AUD\$4.00)
- Hong Kong (via high speed bullet train) \$HK 90 (AUD\$ 12.20)
- London Heathrow £5.50 (AUD\$ 9.00)
- New York JFK \$7.50 (AUD\$ 8.00)
- Paris Charles de Gaulle €9.50 (AUD\$ 12.50)
- Singapore \$S2.30 (AUD\$ 2.00)

Unlike the short 12 minute journey from Sydney International airport to Central, trips from all of the above airports are considerably longer. Travel time from airports in London, Paris and New York takes an hour or longer.

The high cost of train travel from Sydney's Airport sends several messages to locals and to international visitors. Firstly, it gives an extremely poor first impression of the city in terms of its under-developed infrastructure, high costs and poor value for money. It also immediately alienates visitors, rather than welcoming tourists from interstate or overseas. The high cost also sends the message we simply don't care about public transport as a society. It communicates an inherent cynicism that the service is an overpriced monopoly and its customers don't really matter. Furthermore, no designated services (such as baggage wracks or wireless) are provided for the premium price that travelers pay.

Furthermore, as visitor and local traveller numbers are projected to increase significantly, road traffic to and from the Airport is also going to increase. For a couple, family or group travelling from many parts of Sydney, a taxi is a less expensive alternative to the currently over-priced train journey, and the further increase of taxis to the airport will further increase congestion, leading to gridlock at certain times of day.

As someone who is genuinely committed to using rail services transport in Sydney, I propose that the access fee be removed entirely.

Yours sincerely
Mr Chris Baker

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