

Media Release

Sydney Business Chamber



Monday, 1 February 2010

Simpler fare structure on the right tracks to integrated ticketing

The Sydney Business Chamber has welcomed the NSW Government's plan to simplify the fare structure of public transport as a win for commuters and a step in the right direction towards delivering an integrated ticketing system.

The Government will reduce the existing fare bands for trains from twenty to five, on buses from five to three and ferries from five to two. Commuters will also be able to travel on CityRail, Sydney Buses, Sydney Ferries and private bus services with the one pass.

"Sydney's complex fare structure for public transport was one of the chief stumbling blocks that has delayed the introduction of an integrated ticketing system with a smartcard," said Patricia Forsythe, Executive Director of the Sydney Business Chamber.

"This decision by the Government to simplify the fare structure is a victory for commonsense and something the Sydney Business Chamber has advocated for some time.

"The introduction of a single pass that allows commuters to change between CityRail, Sydney Buses, Sydney Ferries and private bus services will help reduce queuing at stations and bus stops and improve reliability."

Mrs Forsythe said that Sydney had one of the most complex public transport fare structures in the world and it was acting as a disincentive for Sydneysiders to use public transport. This decision would be a step towards alleviating that problem and encourage more people onto public transport.

"Simplifying the fare structure should only be the first step towards the goal of delivering an integrated ticketing system backed up by a smartcard that will make using public transport in Sydney easier.

"Other cities such as Perth and Brisbane have introduced some form of integrated ticketing and smartcard technology. Sydney as Australia's global city must be a leader in smarter public transport and this announcement today must only be the beginning of that journey."

Media contact: Chris Taylor 0419 692 236