

Re : Productivity Commission inquiry into Progress in Rail Reform.

I would like to bring to the attention of the inquiry the great potential for an increase in rail travel, mainly for metropolitan commuters, if users are actively encouraged to cycle to stations and terminals.

Many cities around the world have successful rail systems that utilise bicycle travel as a significant mode of transport for their customers.

The reasons for encouraging cycling to rail stations and terminals are many, The major benefits being:

- A passenger can comfortably cycle up to 5 kms to a station.(Much further than people are prepared to walk)
- Car parking is limited at many stations and may also require a long walk from the car.
- Station car parks are hot spots for crime ,vandalism and car theft.
- Car parking is expensive to provide (\$15,000 per space is one estimate)
- A passenger can reduce their commute time and cost by avoiding a feeder bus or driving.

I believe any funds spent on provisions for cyclists would be soon recouped.

These provisions could include:

- Bicycle rails on or near platforms. Approximate cost \$100 each.
- Secure bicycle storage (Lockers) on or near platforms. Approximate cost \$1000 each.
- Video Surveillance of the above facilities.
- Provision of bicycle lanes on feeder roads.(With local council assistance)
- Advertising campaign to encourage walking and cycling to stations. (The Health and Environmental benefits could be highlighted)
- More provision to carry bicycles to the destination at a suitable cost.
- Free travel for a short period (3 months) to encourage people to commute via rail.

I enjoy both rail travel and cycling and I hope both forms of transport enjoy a timely resurgence. Passenger Rail in this country needs bicycles to succeed. If bicycles continue to be ignored then potential passengers will continue to drive to their destinations and more rail lines will be paved over for bike paths.

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