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## **Train cuts slammed**

By FATIMA MRAD

TRAIN services on the Bankstown Line face cuts following CityRail's 2009/10 timetable proposal, amid fare increases that will take effect on January 4.

Canterbury Greens Councillor Linda Eisler raised concerns about the service cuts that will take effect mid next year, and moved a motion at Canterbury Council's last meeting to condemn the move.

The *Torch* reviewed the proposed timetable and revealed one less all-stops service to the city via Bankstown in the morning peak hour between 8 and 9am.

"Every serious review has found that the Bankstown line is running well beyond capacity," Ms Eisler said.

Commuter Joe Errey told the *Torch* that her daughter travels from Hurlstone Park to the city each morning, and described the conditions as a hazard.

"Trains are already crowded, it's a real crush. If they cut one service it will be worse," Ms Errey said.

Other changes to the Bankstown Line include cutting all City to Lidcombe services via Bankstown in both directions after 8.20pm on weekdays.

"We have just two services an hour at night and on weekends, and all the while fare increases continue," Ms Eisler said.

"Hardly an incentive for people to use public transport."

The Independent Pricing And Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) released new fares for CityRail and bus passengers that will go into effect on January 4, 2009.

Train fares will rise on average by 7.5 per cent and a total of about 25 per cent over four years.

For distances up to 20km, single tickets will increase by 20 to 60 cents, weekly tickets will increase by \$2 to \$3, and Traveypasses will increase by \$3.

"Providing reliable, affordable and frequent public transport is the only way we can solve Sydney's transport crisis," Ms Eisler said.