



# Ray Williams MP

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Member for Castle Hill  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier  
for Western Sydney

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Thursday, 26 November 2015

### TRANSPORT CRACKDOWN IN WESTERN SYDNEY CUTS FARE EVASION IN HALF

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Western Sydney, Ray Williams, announced today that NSW Government strategies tackling fare evasion had reduced fare evasion across the entire network by more than half, from 11 per cent in 2012 to 5.2 per cent in May 2015.

The news comes with the release of the recent fare evasion survey results, conducted in May this year.

“On the Western Line alone, fare evasion has reduced, coming down from 8.9 per cent in 2012 to 4.8 per cent in May 2015 - an improvement of \$5.6 million in revenue” Mr Williams said.

“It’s extremely pleasing that we are seeing some improvements on the Western Line, especially when you consider the high volume of people who are catching trains on this particular line.

“Because of the high patronage, the Western Line still accounts for the most significant amount of lost revenue, so we will continue to make it a high priority for future blitzes,” Mr Williams said.

Fare evasion on Parramatta River ferries has also significantly reduced from 8 per cent in 2012 to 3.3 per cent in May 2015, an improvement of over \$1 million in revenue.

Transport Officers have conducted more than 1,100 ticket blitzes on Western Line trains since operations began in 2013. Transport Officers also work closely with Harbour City Ferries to target fare evasion on Parramatta River.

“These results are pleasing but rest assured we’re only getting started. There are more than 190 Transport Officers working across the network alongside the 610 officers of the Police Transport Command so people trying to get a free ride should know- we’re coming to a public transport hub near you,” Mr Williams said.

“This sort of data helps us make informed decisions on where to target next. If we notice any problem areas, we will look to address them immediately. We will continue to monitor public transport hubs in Western Sydney closely over the coming months.



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“Fare dodgers are ruining it for the majority of people who are doing the right thing and paying their way. The revenue lost means less money going towards public transport improvements like more services and better infrastructure,” Mr Williams said.

Three types of fare evasion are measured in the survey – not having a ticket, travelling on a concession ticket without a valid entitlement and overriding, where customers travel further than their ticket allows.

“We are working extremely hard to combat fare evasion and there are a number of contributing factors that have helped us drive the numbers down,” Mr Williams said.

“Our Transport Officers have played a huge part in the success issuing more than 240,000 fines and cautions since they started work in May 2013, working alongside the PTC.

“We’ve also changed how concession tickets are sold and with more than four million Opal cards issued, it’s now easier than ever to pay the correct fare because you only need to tap on and off,” Mr Williams said.

Reducing fare evasion across the entire network by more than half since 2012 has seen an improvement of \$31.38 million on rail revenue, \$26.62 million on bus revenue and \$2.89 million on ferry revenue.

“We will continue to explore options that help us combat fare evasion because the more revenue we can recoup today, the more services we can provide for everyone tomorrow.”

The May Fare Compliance Survey results are available at [www.bts.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bts.nsw.gov.au)

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