

media release

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MYKI TO SAVE PASSENGERS \$MILLIONS IN FARES

Public transport users are set to save millions in fares when the new public transport ticketing system, myki, begins operating in Melbourne later this year.

myki spokesperson, Jean Ker Walsh, said the smartcard system could see more than \$17 million annually saved by passengers.

“Under Metcard there are 16 different tickets for customers to choose from and people unfortunately sometimes buy the wrong one,” Ms Ker Walsh said.

“There are also times when people pay more than they need to because their travel plans change during the day. They buy a daily Metcard but then get a lift home after work; or they are delayed at an appointment so time runs out on their two-hour ticket and they buy another when the 10 x 2 hourly ticket would have provided better value.

“The myki best fare system, on the other hand, will ensure passengers using myki money who touch on and off only ever pay for what they use.”

Ms Ker Walsh said myki had been programmed with all existing ticket variations like zones, time of day, special discounts for weekend passengers, concessions and seniors, as well as daily capping.

The daily capping feature will protect customers by ensuring:

- A full fare customer travelling across zone 1&2 will never pay more than \$9.92 for an entire weekday.
- A concession customer travelling across zone 1&2 will never pay more than \$4.96 for an entire weekday.
- Seniors will never pay more than \$3.30 on a weekday and automatically receive free travel on a Sunday.
- Any customer travelling on weekends or a public holiday won't pay more than \$3.

She said myki's daily cap programming would also create a very tangible benefit on weekends and public holidays.

“Every weekend, more than 80,000 people use a ticket other than the cheapest 5 x Weekend Daily Metcard and because of this they pay more than they need to,” she said.

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“With myki, customers will never pay more than \$3 to travel across zones one and two all day on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday.

“myki means more money can stay in passengers’ pockets even if they didn’t know what ticket to buy or they change their travel plans.

“Instead of choosing between 16 different types of tickets, customers will be able to simply top up their myki with money, touch on and touch off every time they travel – and system will ensure they pay the cheapest available fare.”

Customers who currently buy monthly or yearly tickets will also have the option of loading a pass onto their myki. Customers will be able to buy a pass lasting 7 consecutive days or anywhere between 28 and 365 days.

Public Transport passengers will be able to start using myki in Melbourne by the end of this year and the system will be introduced onto V/Line services in 2010.

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