

Card that costs you \$900 more to take the train

By SAM BENDER and ALAN LANDER

PUBLIC transport should be cheap, accessible and frequent, but ask people who regularly catch the train from the Sunshine Coast to Brisbane if the service is any of those things and the answer is likely "no".

Now the release of the new GoCard technology means Coast commuters pay from \$3.70 to more than \$20 extra each week.

For someone like Jeffrey Addison, who catches the train five days a week from Palmwoods to Brisbane, the extra cost is \$17.80 a week or about \$900 per year.

Mr Addison said he was horrified by the price increase, in his case 23%, saying transport operator Translink was sneaking in a general price rise.

"Translink are using the introduction of the GoCard to increase regular commuter train travel prices up to a staggering 23.08%," he said.

"Compare your paper ticket weekly price against the Translink price list and you will find that commuters north of Glass-

GOING UP WITH GOCARD			
Zones travelled	Ticket weekly	GoCard weekly	Percentage increase
1-10	-	-	0%
11	\$56.30	\$60.00	6.57%
12	\$58.80	\$67.20	14.29%
13	\$61.10	\$75.20	23.08%
14	\$66.30	\$81.60	23.08%
15	\$71.50	\$88.00	23.08%
16	\$77.40	\$95.20	23.08%
17	\$83.90	\$103.20	23.0%
18	\$89.10	\$109.60	23.01%
19	\$94.30	\$116.00	23.01%
20	\$100.80	\$124.00	23.02%
21	\$106.00	\$130.40	23.02%
22	\$111.80	\$137.60	23.08%
23	\$117.00	\$144.00	23.08%

Based upon a regular five-day working week (10 trips)

house Mountains are worse off under their new scheme."

Mountain Creek's Heather Shearer used to catch the train to Brisbane every day for work but the cost, inconvenience and travel time inevitably took their toll and she left her Brisbane-based job to work closer to home.

Ms Shearer said catching the train added four or five hours tra-

velling time to her workday and was more expensive than driving.

But a Translink spokesman defended the costs and said GoCard was designed for five-days-a-week commuters, which made up 80% of all commuters.

A Queensland Transport spokeswoman said current prices for train tickets would remain in place until June.



TOO EXPENSIVE? Commuters claim the new Go-card makes train travel more expensive than driving.