

The Border Mail

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\$1.10 INC GST



3 DAYS TO GO

INSIDE SPORT



The Border Mail INVESTIGATION

It has been revealed bonus wages are paid to workers if the XPT is late into Albury, costing taxpayers thousands of dollars. The Carr Government and RailCorp have shown little interest in getting to the bottom of the situation.



EXCLUSIVE
By **BRAD
WORRALL**

GRAVY TRAIN

MORE than \$6000 a week is being lost on the Sydney to Melbourne XPT service through a loophole in working conditions and the NSW Government has washed its hands of the matter.

The *Border Mail* has discovered some passenger attendants receive \$100 on top of their wages if the train is more than six minutes late into Albury, while taxis are being used to ferry staff from Albury to Wagga and Goulburn to Canberra.

Last month the State-owned RailCorp defended its policy of flying XPT workers to Albury and Melbourne to cover sick staff as part of its efforts to keep the service running.

The comments outraged one of its workers, who said that this was just the tip of the iceberg.

"If the Sydney train is six minutes late in the morning the passenger attendants get

\$100 to \$150 extra," the source said.

"In the afternoon the extra payment kicks in if the train is more than 20 minutes late."

RailCorp has confirmed the payment is part of award conditions that demand workers have a seven-hour break between shifts.

The two daily services from Sydney to Melbourne are late about five of the seven days and manned by five passenger attendants, the source said.

It was also claimed to *The Border Mail* that some Sydney staff "drag their feet at stops" to delay the train's arrival in Albury.

There was a further claim the train sometimes made unnecessary stops at country stations even when no passengers were boarding or alighting.

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4-DAY WEATHER
FORECAST
FULL DETAILS: PAGE 30



TODAY
FINE
27°



TOMORROW
MOSTLY SUNNY
30°



THURSDAY
COOL CHANGE
28°



FRIDAY
RAIN CLEARING
22°