

Commuter Profile

Megan McClaren

Public transport commuter from Central Coast
to work at Optus in Macquarie Park

1) What does your typical commute look like?

I live in Pearl Beach on the Central Coast and work at Optus Macquarie Park. It's a journey, but very easy as I have great connections. I never drive to work as it actually takes longer! Here's my path:

Morning - Drive to Woy Woy parking station and get a good parking spot at 5:30am. I then go to the gym and catch the 6:58 train to Epping, followed by the 7:50 bus to Macquarie Park. I have done this trip for over 5 years now and travel time is usually around 90mins I then switch it up by working from home on Thursdays.

Afternoons: I leave around 4:30pm and walk to Macquarie Park Station which is about 10min and take the Metro to Epping and then switch over to the Newcastle Express train to Woy Woy. Then make the drive back to Pearl Beach

2) How are you managing your trip?

The excellent Optus signal on my trip means I have internet access so I can read emails on the train to work. That means I arrive with no new emails and a few tasks with actions before I start business as usual. I can sometimes sneak in a sneaky Netflix show or use my Duolingo app to refresh my poor French. It is usually a good trip, sometimes there are delays on the lines, but I know I will get there eventually.

3) Do you plan ahead, use certain capacity apps, retime your trips?

I have my timetables pretty down pat in my head and if there is a glitch, I can rely on TripView and Google Maps. TripView is great for capacity info and mapping of where the trains are placed on network at any given time.

4) From your experiences, how have you found physical distancing working on the train and at platforms?

On my train most people wear masks and we are all loving the distancing as our bags have a seat. When busy, people will walk through looking for a spare seat, I am pretty lucky I have never not found a socially distanced seat, and I always wear a mask. I also travel in the "quiet carriage" I find most people that use these areas are very compliant.

5) What would you say to anyone looking to return to public transport for their commute?

There is more space than ever, and carriages are cleaner than ever!

