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## Heads in the sand

THE graph accompanying your front-page story "Rail Network in Meltdown" (*The Age*, 19/6) states that "patronage jumps as petrol passes \$1 per litre". Yet the graph itself shows a steady increase in rail journeys from 2003 to 2008, surely a situation that could have been planned for by Connex.

Any high school student could have told you why rail patronage was going to go up (population increase, peak oil, growing awareness of carbon issues). A smart business, or even better a public operator with a smart user advisory group, would have predicted this as early as 2001.

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