

**Supplementary  
Submission  
No 44b**

## **INQUIRY INTO NSW TAXI INDUSTRY**

**Name:** Mr Paul Fletcher

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Paul Fletcher,

12th March, 2010.

The Select Committee on the NSW Taxi Industry

Parliament House

Macquarie Street

Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Senators,

I am enclosing an article from today's Manly Daily newspaper regarding bus travel following the release of a report by the Auditor General.

I have highlighted the pertinent sections regarding passengers being "left standing" at bus stops when the bus fails to turn up.

The reason for sending this to you is to again bring to your attention the failure of the road rules to allow those people "left standing" to catch a passing taxi as an alternative. A taxi stopping to pick up the stranded bus passenger will incur a \$197 fine for stopping on a bus stop. It is illegal! To hell with providing transport. How discriminating is that?

The road rules must be changed.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Fletcher



# Angel stops traffic

Andrew Prentice

SHE is used to turning heads, so no eyebrows were raised when Amy O'Mara was unveiled as the latest member of the Eagles Angels yesterday at Warringah Mall.

The 600cc superbike flyer, who is impossible to miss when she takes to Eastern Creek on her pink two-wheeler, was humbled by the announcement.

"To be in a position to mingle with the likes of Layne Beachley and Melinda Gainsford-Taylor is going to be fantastic, I can't wait," she said. "All the Angels are pioneers in their respective

fields and act as role models for young girls. It has all happened pretty quickly, I can't wait to sip on a few champagnes with the girls this season."

The Cunninghams Property sales consultant is especially looking forward to seeing David "Wolfman" Williams in the flesh, describing him "as a bit of eye candy".

"Steve Menzies used to be my favourite player but with him now in England, I needed someone else to follow closely," she said. "A few of my girlfriends pointed David out and I can see why."



New Eagles Angel Amy O'Mara poses on a Yamaha, which she rides in the Superstock championship, during the Angels' launch at Warringah Mall.

Picture: ANNIKA ENDERBORG

# Private buses pass latest test

Rebecca Woolley

TERREY Hills company Forest Coach Lines outperformed Sydney Buses on a series of key indicators last year, flying in the face of a report stating private companies needed to improve their game.

Auditor-General Peter Achterstraat said one in four passengers were left stranded at their bus stop each week while private bus companies were less reliable, less frequent and less accessible.

He said there were 31,000 complaints last year and suggested mystery shoppers helped sniff out poorly-performing operators.

But a 2009 survey of Sydney metropolitan bus users, conducted on behalf of NSW Transport and Infrastructure, showed Forest Coach Lines stuck closer to its timetable, was less crowded and left fewer passengers stranded at their bus stops than Sydney Buses, which is run by the State Government.

David Royle, managing director

of Forest Coach Lines, said his firm had held the government contract for almost 80 years, "compared favourably" with the State Transit Authority and ran at half the cost.

"We would encourage more data to be available to benchmark the quality of service," he said.

"But I don't believe there is any need to differentiate between private and government-operated services - it should be a 50-50 split."

The survey showed 93 per cent of customers were satisfied with Forest's ability to stick to its timetable, compared with 74 per cent of those using Sydney Buses.

About 40 per cent of commuters said they were left standing at the bus stop at least once a month by Forest Coach Lines while 70 per cent of customers using Sydney Buses reported the same.

Mr Royle said the Auditor-General's report showed Forest Coach Lines received a lower level

of state taxpayer subsidy as a percentage of contract payment than any other private operator in Sydney.

"In fact, to my knowledge, it is the lowest level of state taxpayer subsidy of any private operator in the state - of which there are over 500," he said.



What do you think of the bus services on the northern beaches?

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