

**Submission
No 31**

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Mr Peter Moran

Date Received: 31 March 2022

The eastern suburb bus cuts have had a significant negative effect on my travel for both work and personal purposes. The loss of the 373 and its replacement with a "city" service that goes only to Museum Station means that I need to walk a considerable distance to either catch the light rail to work (when raining) or walk further to get to work. Visitors to our home can now no longer easily navigate a trip to the city. They are elderly and cannot manage the change of services (bus-lightrail) or the walk. Our children have also been impacted by the cuts and they too need to walk a considerable distance with heavy school bags to catch several bus service to school. They need to change bus services at a dangerous busy interchange because their usual bus route to school has been cut (eg 314). The light rail is not able to replace this service as it does not go in the direction of the school. Our 9 year old is unable to navigate the new routes safely so we have to drive him to school- with the result of yet another car on the road. Ex-Transport Minister Constance said that buses were not being patronised and were therefore not needed. TfNSW however did not realise that these buses were in fact full with school children who did not tap on with their school OPAL card. Our own children use their OPAL cards. The eastern suburbs bus services were fantastic before the light rail- all we have now is a disjointed transport system which services the racecourse, university and SCG with no care or consideration given to the community members who live here. Community consultation around the light rail and the subsequent bus cuts have been a disgrace. There have been multiple vicious attacks at light rail stops (near Wansey Rd) - it is a dangerous stop- isolated and it requires users to walk considerable distances home putting them at risk of being attacked. The light rail "replacement" stops infrequently requiring people to walk a much greater distance. Young people living in Coogee and who are travelling home in the evening now have to wait a long time for a bus at Randwick or walk home in the dark putting them at risk of being assaulted near the Royal Hotel. An assault at this stop has already happened. We are fearful for our own young children who are now faced with this poor and dangerous Transport choice. Up until recently, they could catch a 373 or 372 bus from the city or railway and it would drop them just a short distance to our home- making it a much safer option. Now, we worry they will be assaulted on the long walk home. TfNSW has not considered the safety of community members living in this area and who moved to this area because of the excellent transport choices that were formally available. Please bring back the old 373 service (Circular Quay to Coogee) and make travel in our community safe again. Thankyou