

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 March 2022

Partially
Confidential

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in the Eastern Suburbs for over 27 years and used public transport, predominately buses for work and leisure.

I have proudly voted at every election since turning 18 and paid my taxes and I am 59 years old.

Without any consultation to the public, over 20 bus lines/services in the Eastern Suburbs were cancelled earlier this year where now me, along with many many many people used these now cancelled services to travel in the area and to work in the area or city.

My closest bus, the 309, has also been changed and now only travels to Redfern and there are no other options to travel to the City/Martin Place/Circular Quay direct.

Even if I drive to other areas within the Eastern Suburbs, their lines have also been either cancelled or stop at Central/Museum and not the other end of the City – No direct routes equals looking for other options.

These include having to WAIT for another bus, change to a Train or use the White Elephant (Tram service from Randwick). No direct routes equals more travelling/waiting time.

This includes the following – More waiting time, over 30 minutes extra travelling time (at best), where the Tram is used, there is no all day parking at Randwick and limited in Kensington, the trams are extremely slow and have limited seating are full and you need to wait to actually catch one to get a seat or even stand.

If you try to catch a tram in Central to get to the other end of the City where the bus has terminated (if you are lucky to find a bus that goes to Central) the trams are full and you have to wait and wait and wait.)

Yes, another option could be to catch a train. However, it is found that most buses do not stop at Central Station so you need to walk (Weather permitting not under cover) to the Station and yet again wait and wait for another Full Train so you again need to stand up.

Why were these changes made without truly consulting the general public/users? It would appear those who may have been “surveyed” were part time users of Buses at best.

After nearly 50 years of using public transport starting from going to school on a bus, going to work and using a bus and a train when living in the St George area to now living in the Eastern Suburbs - closer to the City yet bus services have been dramatically reduced and there are no replacements or limited options which now can double the time to be taken to get into the City.

As a more mature aged citizen, I would prefer to sit when travelling to the City though this means now waiting and waiting and waiting for a seat or to transfer to another service where I need to stand be it another bus, tram or train.

At the start of the year, 2022, where we are hopefully/finally coming out of a pandemic and restricted bus time tables, and are coming back to using Buses, public transport, a decision was made, without the general public’s consideration, to cut over 20 bus lines/services in the Eastern Suburbs – Why?

It was not broken yet someone decided it fix it. Fix what, when it was not broken.

Now it is broken and someone needs to fix it!!!!