

**Submission  
No 46**

## **INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES**

**Name:** Ms Jenny Shaw

**Date Received:** 31 March 2022

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I am in my eighties and am an enthusiastic traveller on public transport, mainly buses. Since bus cuts which have occurred in the last few years I have found my options for travel seriously curtailed.

First was the removal of the M50. This wonderful service linked Coogee with the inner west. The M50 stopped at Park St and connections could be made with buses to suburbs on the north side. By crossing the road, connection could be made to the 441 the only bus going to the Art Gallery of NSW.

In December 2021 the 373 no longer went to Circular Quay. Four times a year I need to go to medical/dental appointments in Macquarie St. I catch the 373 to Oxford St then change to a 333. Coming back the timetable says the stop is at Martin Place Station but it is near King St. To go from Coogee and return from Martin Place I have had to catch four buses. Hopping on and off is unsafe for many people of varying ability.

We now have elderly people, those with a disability, and those with young children attempting to scramble on and off buses. We have become the little people and our city no longer belongs to us or fulfils our needs.

Newspaper articles on revamping the CBD and developing an area near George St only add fuel to the fire.

For years the buses from the Eastern suburbs have stopped at Bathurst and King Sts bypassing the obvious shopping centre, Market St.

The light rail does not fulfil our needs. To attend a function near the Quay in the evening and return on the light rail necessitates waiting for a bus to Coogee in Belmore Road. There have been two reported incidents after a person alighted from the light rail.

For Coogee residents the restoration of the 373 from Coogee to Circular Quay and the reinstatement of the M50 would make a vast difference.

I have written several letters to the Ministers for Transport and received generic letters in reply. My letters stated that the buses don't go where the residents want to go. The replies did not address the concerns I raised but referred to more frequent services which is not the problem.