

**Submission
No 48**

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Ms Karen Heycox

Date Received: 31 March 2022

I am a 70 year old female resident of Coogee, Randwick Municipality, for the last forty years. I have always used public transport on a regular basis, previously to get to and from work and since retirement to get to essential services and leisure pursuits. Good public transport is key to our well functioning economy , and also one means to enhance society's health and well being. I have always felt well connected to my community through the very accessible public buses linking Coogee to the City, Railway Square, Nth Randwick, Bondi Junction, Maroubra Junction and Eastgardens, Drummoyne, Leichhardt etc. However with changes to bus services over the last couple of years I have found that I have lost services which directly linked me to many of these destinations and I am now forced to change modes of transport ie one bus to another bus; or one bus to the light rail service...or at worst three buses, or bus, light rail and another bus...or bus , light rail , then another light rail...and so on. So the impact is more time taken to travel from A to B and often more walking between parts of the trip or from one form of transport to another. I am finding this situation an effort even as a reasonably fit seventy year old but for those older or less fit, those with disability, those with shopping or prams etc..this becomes almost insurmountable. I have access to a car so am finding myself forced to use a car rather than face this additional effort required ...but for those without this option who knows what they can now do? Finally I am concerned that as a woman the lack of direct buses to Coogee from many of the destinations (that existed previously) means that women will feel less safe especially when travelling at night.