

**Submission
No 49**

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

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During the measures taken for public health protection under the pandemic, the NSW Government acted to reduce, to remove, and to resile from its responsibilities to provide comprehensive public transport to its citizens. As a result, attempts to recover from the pandemic are now, and will continue to be, greatly hampered. When citizens do not have access to employment opportunities, education, social engagement and ease of movement in their city, that city ceases to be a 'world class destination' and it certainly establishes a pillar of systemic discrimination where those opportunities rest more firmly in the hands of those who can afford private transport options. Society must ensure food, clothing, shelter, education, health, transport, and legal protections for all if it is to be judged a fair and equitable society. This is the social contract and the government is obliged to honour it. The Government must act to restore the previously available bus services and the rights of the people of NSW.