

**Submission
No 55**

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Mrs Lia Mortimer

Date Received: 31 March 2022

I just wanted to have my say about the changes to our bus routes as a step to the privatisation of the buses in the eastern suburbs. I really see the provision of buses as a public good. It is important that everyone regardless of their income, age or disability, be able to travel in their area and to the city in an efficient fashion. It is all very well building expensive trams, putting aside that they are slow, if it is difficult for many people to get to the tram stops - and then not be able to go to their destination without changing service. Buses are so much more flexible, there are more stops, and until recently when timetables were changed they really took so many more people where they needed to go. I ask you to travel with small children, or with shopping, or to imagine travelling as an elderly person, or as a person with a disability, and to try changing from buses to trams, and to walk a longer distance from home. Ultimately it becomes too exhausting to leave the home. Or people simply drive, as this is door to door, which really defeats the purpose of providing public transport does it not. Please bring back our buses, and our bus stops! It is such a simple thing but really does provide freedom to so many people who otherwise would not be able to get around. Not everybody is able to walk to a bus stop that is further away.