

**Submission
No 64**

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Mrs Maria Moran

Date Received: 30 March 2022

Since changes and cancellations to the eastern suburbs bus services were introduced, my school age children have had their travel to school greatly disrupted. They have had to walk considerable distances, often in the rain with heavy school bags to catch alternate bus services. One of my primary school age children is now required to catch two buses and change services at a very busy exchange. I am extremely worried for his safety and have had to drive him to school, further increasing the congestion of our roads. The one bus route that is still available is so full and in COVID times we feel very uncomfortable about using this service. The cancelled bus routes are NOT able to be substituted with a light rail service as the light rail does not travel in the direction of the school. The STATE government cancelled bus routes on the basis of OPAL data which indicated that the buses were not well patronised. The STATE government did not consider the fact that the school age children who hold school bus passes do NOT tap on when using the services and therefore the OPAL data falsely downplays the number of patrons. My own children tap on and off with their OPAL cards. The STATE government should consider the needs of school children and ensure that they have enough services to transport them safely to and from school. Thankyou,
Maria Moran