

**Submission  
No 73**

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

**Name:** Mr Ross Langford-Brown

**Date Received:** 29 March 2022

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3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022.

Dear Mr. Elliott.

### **Changes to Buses in the Eastern Suburbs**

I am writing to express my discontent about the changes to bus operations in the Eastern Suburbs which occurred on 5<sup>th</sup> December last year. I have allowed time to ascertain what effects these changes might have on me and I wish to advise that I have found the changes to be detrimental, negative and most unsatisfactory.

Specifically:

\* I live on Alison Road Randwick and the 374 bus stops are literally at the entrance to the unit complex in which I live. Until the 5<sup>th</sup> December last year the 374 provided a direct service to the CBD and Circular Quay. It now operates along Cleveland Street and terminates at Central. If I wish to travel further into the CBD I now need to change to a tram at Central. This is most unnecessarily inconvenient and involves changing from the bus and walking around 5 minutes to the tram stop in Chalmers Street. After the additional travel time along Cleveland Street (one of the slowest streets in Sydney), the 5 minute walk to the tram stop and the time needed to wait for a tram, it now takes up to 20 minutes longer to reach Circular Quay than it did prior to 5<sup>th</sup> December.

This is entirely unsatisfactory.

\* The 373 bus used to travel directly to and from Circular Quay. Passengers travelling from locations north of Liverpool Street now need to make at least one change (tram/train to bus) to be able to complete their journey to Coogee.

This also is entirely unsatisfactory.

\* The removal of the 400 buses is an absolute horror. Not so long ago the 400 ran from Bondi Junction to Burwood. The current government split this route in two with the introduction of the 420 service but it was still possible to travel from the Randwick area to the airport. There is no longer an available direct bus service from Randwick to the airport. Taxi anyone?

Again, this is totally unsatisfactory.

The 400 bus was also a very useful service and while the replacement 390X provides a reasonable service between Bondi Junction and La Perouse, the removal of the 400 service means that there is no longer a direct service from Bondi Junction/Randwick to the Eastgardens shopping complex.

Again an unsatisfactory situation.

\* The removal of the 314 and 316 services has significantly reduced the frequency of buses along Frenchman's Road. This is also unsatisfactory.

\* While I rarely use the 339 service (although I do at times), its termination at Central is also unsatisfactory.

\* The 376 service was also useful. Its removal is unsatisfactory.

It seems that the changes are designed to 1) force passengers onto the unpopular tram system and 2) inconvenience as many passengers as possible. Public transport in the Eastern suburbs is now worse than it has ever been and I am not looking forward to the negative impacts that the April privatising of Eastern suburbs buses will bring about. I remember that, prior to the 2019 election, the current government promised that there would be no more bus privatisation.

I would also like to make the following comments:

\* Years ago, there was a dedicated city-airport bus service. This has long been removed.

\* In 2008, the then Labour Government introduced the 555 free bus service (in both a clockwise and an anti-clockwise direction) operating around the CBD. This was removed by the current Government in 2015 due to light rail construction.

\* The current public transport system in the Eastern suburbs is not user-friendly. Locals have difficulty using it – what chance do visitors/tourists have? The Transport New South Wales website is one of the most difficult sites I have tried to use. One typical example – it is not possible to find out what buses travel to what suburbs. To find out timetables, one needs to know the bus route and number first. This is a catch-22 situation if ever there was one.

Please review the changes mentioned above – the only logical solution is to restore the system to what it was prior to 5<sup>th</sup> December and this restoration needs to be made as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,

Ross Langford-Brown.