

**Submission
No 98**

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

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We wrote to the Transport Department complaining about the inconveniences caused by the cutting of bus services in the Eastern Region and received the reply that basically said that there are winners and losers so get over it. They acknowledged that many users will have to change en-route but maintained that this is an acceptable compromise to get some more frequent services on a limited number of routes.

For us the most egregious cut has been the curtailing of the 373 service so that it stops at Museum instead of Circular Quay meaning you have to alight in Surrey Hills for the limited number of stops on Oxford Street and catch either 333 or 396 which are often full. Returning from the City is even more confusing with the buses leaving 200 metres down Elizabeth Street.

Next in inconvenience is the cutting of services to Central from Coogee from 3 to 1 losing the 372 and M50 and getting the 374 taking the slow road via Cleveland Street making the journey from home 30 minutes longer.

The truncating of the 370 service to Leichhardt to terminate at Glebe Point has shortened one of the most enjoyable circuitous routes established originally to link 2 major hospitals 3 shopping centres 3 cinema and brought the Inner West and the beach suburbs together seamlessly.

Finally it is an embarrassment to have the service to the airport terminating at the Domestic Terminal. How is a passenger supposed to get to the International Terminal from the East, formerly serviced conveniently by the 400, other than by catching the expensive train or going via Burwood!!!

The changes have blatantly been instigated to ease the facilitation of the privatisation of the bus service and/or force users to catch the Light Rail or airport train. No thought has been given to the added journey times and fractured inter-connections forced on the customers.

When added to the prevalence of the removal of many bus stops it is apparent that curtailing bus services will only reduce public transport usage and promote more private cars on City streets for the benefit of the few.