

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I have lived in Randwick for 33 years and it has always been served well by buses, until the recent changes by the NSW Government. I either ride my bike or catch a bus from my home to my office in Surry Hills. Previously I could catch the 376, 377, 316, 317 or 372 to my office. The NSW Govt has either abolished or severely altered these routes. So it now takes between 10-30 minutes longer each way to get to and from work, because the new services don't go to the city, so I have to get off at Randwick and get on the Light Rail which is a lot slower. It's clear that NSW Govt is running down and diminishing the bus services to use as an argument to privatise the network. We are always told before a privatisation of a govt service that the private operators will make it more efficient and cheaper, and it never is. Public transport is a key public service provided by the State Govt from our taxes and it should not be privatised for profit ahead of service to the community.

I do not support the privatisation of any public bus services because:

1. private operators do not attempt to cover all routes that presently serve the community, only the ones that are profitable;
2. public buses are an essential service to the public that should be provided by the government based on need not profit;
3. every time a public service is privatised we are told that the service will be better and cheaper, and every time it ends up being a worse service that costs more, such as Telstra, Qantas, Commonwealth Bank, electricity, toll roads etc.;
4. every area that is serviced by a private bus service is more expensive than the equivalent area serviced by public buses;
5. the government wants to privatise buses so that the private operators can drive bus drivers wages and conditions down.