

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I'm a bus operator, and I have been on the job for six years now. I was originally employed by S.T.A. For the last four years I have been employed by Transit Systems a private entity, and in these four years I have seen cuts to our work because we are employed under a higher award than the new drivers. I have seen cuts to our break times between trips until they are virtually non existent, I have seen a deterioration in the state of our tax payer buses because

1. The company is cutting back maintenance.
2. The company is using inferior spare parts.
3. The company is not washing the fleet of vehicles as regularly as before.
4. The new drivers are so poorly trained that they are having accidents every day.

The cuts and money saving tactics this company implements is both devicive and demoralising to the employees. Under the new system this company employs, we have a two tiered system where the new employees who are employed under a new Award and are paid less and gets the lion's share of the work and the old employees like myself gets just enough to comply with our Award which has better pay and conditions. The new employees are being so overworked that they are coming to work fatigued and that becomes a danger to the public, just look up the amount of accidents the company has had across all their depots.

The most disappointing thing the company has done with approval from TFNSW is that they are cutting trips short by ending trips early because they deem it non profitable. By doing this they are saving money because they are cutting drivers working times but the real disappointment is leaving old people and people with special needs in the lurch, most of these are reliant on public transport to transport them to their destinations, it breaks my heart to see these people having to wait an extra half hour or some cases an hour to go an extra four or five stops because they can't walk that far due to their age or disability. What rights do these private companies have to deny these people the right to get to their destinations promptly because it's not profitable enough to operate these trips. Privatisation is ripping off the taxpayers!