

**Submission
No 169**

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Ms Christine Ryan

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Public transport is all in the name. It is a public service to enable residents to move safely and efficiently around a city. It is not a profit stream for a greedy Government to sell off to offset major financial exposure due to the revelation of TAHE and gross possible illegal misconduct by Treasury.

The changes to Coogee and Clovelly bus timetables appear solely to create a business case for the profitable sale of bus services but have negatively impacted the lives of the residents of Coogee and Clovelly.

Despite being less than 7km from the CBD, it is not possible to make a single journey by bus. It is not possible to go to Circular Quay by a single journey. Outside of peak hours, not a single bus from Coogee or Clovelly now goes to Circular Quay or services the eastern side of the CBD.

The light rail is convenient for those who live on the route but useless for residents of North and South Coogee or Clovelly. The reduced timetable makes it even less appealing.

The Government and City Council are urging people to spend time in the city (currently deserted at night) at the same time as they public slash public transport. Go figure.

The new timetable retains the X373 and X374 during peak hours which services some residents working in the CBD in traditional working hours. However, Government is clearly not aware that Covid has meant changes to working hours and 9-5 is no longer the norm. As corporate Australia recalibrates its workforce and work hours, the Government reduces transport services. Go figure.

Outside of peak hours the 374 now ceases at Central and returns to Coogee - this means a long walk to get to appointments in Elizabeth St or Macquarie St or the Eastern side of Martin Place. Attempts to transfer to another bus from Central to the Quay are fruitless.

The 373 now does a loop to and from Coogee Beach to Liverpool St at Museum. The main stop in the city is Stand G on Liverpool St with no seating, shade or protection from rain/wind and a long walk to the light rail. Outside of peak hours this is the only bus stop in the CBD.

Clearly the new timetables are about reducing services to reduce costs. Worst impacted are the elderly and disabled who have longer walks to bus stops and/or challenges trying to switch modes of transport in the city to get to their ultimate destination.

The changes made to once a timely and efficient transport system are disgraceful, no thought or consideration has been given to the impact on residents and expressions of angst prior to the timetables coming into effect were ignored by bureaucrats. I understand similar changes/cuts have been made across Sydney.

Might I suggest you take the time to visit social media community sites Nextdoor and the local suburb Loops on Facebook. These are community forums and your voters are furious - everyone right through from students to the elderly.

Please reconsider or watch the CBD die a slow agonising death especially at night. I used to enjoy many bars and restaurants in the CBD during the week but without safe affordable and reliable transport (one ride) I will be sticking local and abandon the CBD forever.

Please reconsider - as the TAHE fraud becomes widely known it will expose Transport NSW for not only its' deceit but also the inconvenience they have caused to many voters.

Please reconsider or lose the 2024 election. Do not underestimate the incandescent rage in the community. Do so at your cost.