

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Bus

The changes to the eastern suburbs bus routes has put old bus models on the roads that emit an unacceptable level of noise pollution on the residential streets that need to be properly assessed. I have identified at least 20 different buses that in no way would meet EPA guidelines on noise vehicle pollution. They are ridiculously loud and sound like a plane passing. I contacted STA and while they say they are audited every two years, they cannot make the reports public nor can disclose information about the audit. Therefore I find it deceptive that these buses are checked to standard. Since the privatisation of the inner west buses routes like 380 and 348 have not followed their schedule, run late or not shown up, or are loud and dirty buses. It is not acceptable to provide such a poor service. Further, the removal and route changes of essential bus routes like 373, 391, 393, 394 make it incredibly hard for anyone who travels between Maroubra, Kensington and Laparouse to central or railway square. The light rail is not a viable alternative as it requires transferring between modes of transport. This involves walking some distance or having to wait between modes of transport. During Covid lockdown when it ran on reduced schedule there was a significant delay so customers were forced to wait. It impacts disabled people and people with prams as they now have to walk further due to limited stops at the light rail and no more bus services that service to other main areas (such as Cleveland street, Railway Square etc). Privatisation will make this a lot worse and dismisses the communities requests for an efficient public transport system.