

## INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 31 March 2022

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Partially  
Confidential

I live in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney. My local area has been affected by replanning of bus routes that has left many worse off in terms of access to public transport.

In addition to this issue, since January, my local bus route has been operating on reduced timetables. There is no explanation for this available anywhere that I can find - the Sydney Buses website simply states that the buses are "temporarily" operated on a reduced schedule, with no indication on when the temporary reduction (which has been going on for 3 months) will reverse. I understand from my local member that this reduction is in fact due to the privatisation of buses and an attempt to keep routes profitable.

The result of this reduction is that buses come less regularly and are more crowded - a problem that is particularly concerning when COVID is rampant.

A modern city requires a well functioning public transport system. This is a public good and should operate regardless of profitability. The privatisation of bus routes risks undermining the proper functioning of our public transport system and will have many negative flow on effects - increased congestion on our roads from people electing to drive instead of catch public transport; and limited services for those who do not have other transport options.

I urge this inquiry to make recommendations against the privatisation of bus routes and ensure services are maintained. This government changed bus routes in the Eastern Suburbs under a pretense that more services would be available to residents, only to cut back those services a few months later.

The route that I take is the 339X.