

Submission
No 236

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 March 2022

Partially
Confidential

The recent bus changes to the East have been a disastrous failure affecting those who use it massively and those that imposed it (I suspect) very minimally. It is a failure for a number of reasons:

1. Overall convenience: With 9 bus routes completely cut and then some of the remaining routes altered, a lot of trips that used to require only 1 bus, now require 2. This is hugely inconvenient as it forces users to rely on not one but two buses to be on time and operating properly, but it also means more time factored into their commute. I used to be able to catch the 373 directly to Martin Place, but now have to catch the 390x to Bondi Junction and then catch a train from there. This is also more expensive as changing transport methods costs more. Since I live in Randwick I can catch the light rail but for those in Coogee this is hugely inconvenient.

2. Mobility issues: leading on from my previous point, those with mobility issues will be affected as having to now catch 2 buses to get somewhere will add more points of pain in their daily life.

3. Late night transport: I usually finish work past 1am in the city and can no longer catch the Light Rail back to Randwick. Before the bus route changes however I could catch the 373 from Martin Place at a 30min frequency, which was honestly perfect. 18 minutes in the bus and I'm home. Now I have to take a bus to Bondi junction and then bus from there to Randwick or take a bus to Kensington and then a bus to Randwick or walk 20 minutes to Museum Station to catch the new 373. None of these options are desirable, convenient or considerate. The frustrating thing is, by car, Randwick is only 12-15 minutes away, it shouldn't take me nearly an hour to get home. These changes will have definitely encouraged a lot of people to switch to commuting via their own vehicles I suspect.

4. Privatisation of buses

I don't believe the buses should be privatised as public transport is a public service which should put providing a great service for its citizens before earning profit. I'm worried a private provider would cut costs and provide even more inconvenient services. Though this current government has shown it's more concerned with cutting costs than the quality of the transport service, I hope it can improve upon its mistake.

5. Community feedback

Lastly, I don't believe the government actually took into consideration the feedback gained from the community before the bus changes. Everyone I have talked to about the changes have said negative things about it. These aren't only people from my own circle but strangers as well. If the government actually did take people's feedback into consideration there wouldn't be as many people upset about the changes. Of course with any change there will always be outliers who are against it, but this time it seems the majority of the community are not in favour of the changes.