

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I wish to comment about the removal of the 439 bus under the cover of covid when use dropped off. The 439 was a Mortlake to City service which was a brilliant service especially for residents of Breakfast Point, Concord, Five Dock that was ideal for going to Leichhardt Marketplace or Plaza for shopping, the movies at Norton St Cinema, and for myself a weekly visit to Glebe. The replacement bus service does not go to any of these locations. As a fall back I used to catch a bus on Parramatta Rd Burwood Niech's Lane to Glebe Point Road but it too has had its bus stops butchered. Some bus stops are 500 meters apart! What is the point of getting a bus as the whole idea is to take you closer your destination than say a train or light rail. I'm disgusted at what has happened. The nearest stop to Glebe Pt road adds huge extra walking distance. I'm 64 and not young and fit anymore. Axing bus stops, adding walking distances, taking away services to locations especially to older people who used to go to Leichhardt and Five Dock from a poorly served location like Breakfast Point and Mortlake has diminished our lives. It just means we no longer can support businesses where the old 439 used to go. As for the ridiculous express buses along Parramatta Rd it really defies logic the bus stop distances now. Even Syd Uni has only one stop quite some distance from Footbridge. Almost all the buses outside peak time no longer stop where I know many residents want. The 461X is an example. Obviously the people who changed these services do not carry books, have trolleys for groceries or are mobility challenged. It's an outrage. It also has forced people back into cars and I suggest added to traffic and with increased fuel costs individual budgets are suffering whereas a bus was so simple and affordable and eased car congestion. Please bring back the 439 and more bus stops!