

Submission
No 328

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 22 March 2022

Partially
Confidential

NOTE: You may publish my submission on the committee's website; however, please keep my personal details confidential.

March 22, 2022

RE: Recent Eastern Suburbs bus route changes & planned privatization of bus services

I am expressing my grave concerns about the recent changes to the Eastern Suburbs bus network and potential privatization of bus services in the area.

I'm a JobSeeker who relies heavily on the public transport to go anywhere. About 16 months ago, I moved to my current address on Anzac Parade, halfway between Kingsford and Maroubra, because it was very convenient for me to commute to the CBD, Central / Railway Square, Bondi Junction, Eastgardens and the Domestic / International Airport Terminals on a single bus trip.

But now, thanks to the recent changes to the Eastern Suburbs bus services, my commute options have literally been shredded to pieces, and Transport for NSW has essentially helped eliminate some of my potential work locations by ruthlessly chopping and changing the crucial bus routes.

With my main concerns / gripes being:

1) Now that the very popular and convenient Route 400 (between Bondi Junction and the International Airport Terminal) has been scrapped, I now need to connect two or three buses to go to Westfields Eastgardens, Mascot and the Domestic / International Terminals. For example, if I want to work at the International Terminal, I would either need to connect three buses (396/350/420) or pay \$12.28-\$14.68 ONE WAY to connect bus/es and the T8 Airport Line. Whereas it used to be a simple, single bus trip by 400 paying just \$3.79.

2) Since the direct Railway Square service along Anzac Parade (Route 393) has been withdrawn, I would no longer consider applying for jobs in the Inner-West. If I want to work at University of Sydney or Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, for example, I would be connecting a bus / L3 Light Rail / another bus for \$6.19 in fares. Previously, it would have been a two-bus trip (393 to Railway Square and a Parramatta Rd bus) for just \$3.79.

3) The major bus stops on Anzac Parade at Borrodale Road / Meeks Street (Nine Ways, Kingsford) have now been closed. These stops were in the very hub of Kingsford and closest to the medical centre, pharmacy, IGA supermarket, bank branches and other major businesses in the area. Now, people need to get off the bus at Juniors Kingsford Light Rail Terminus and then navigate several sets of traffic signals / zebra crossings to get there. Or

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else, they need to get off the bus after Strachan Street further north and then walk all the way back. It is CRIMINAL to deny the elderly and sick an easy access to those essential services.

Transport for NSW has done nothing but a terrible disservice to people who rely on the public transport. Should the planned privatization of the Eastern Suburbs bus network go ahead, I could only see the quality of the services deteriorate even further.

I would like to remind the NSW Government that the very purpose of the public transport is to serve people and communities, and NOT to make profit.

Thank you for your attention to my letter, and I sincerely hope that common sense will prevail in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

March 22, 2022