

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 16 March 2022

Partially
Confidential

I am extremely concerned that bus routes have been changed, bus routes eliminated and bus stops removed without public consultation. What has made our city such a liveable city has been the ease one could travel through and across our city.

I live in the inner city, I do not have a car and I use public transport. I rely on public transport.

I was dismayed when the bus 378 from Bronte to Leichhardt was stopped. The bus at Bronte does a loop from when it reaches Bondi Junction to go to other local Beach suburbs. Anyone on the bus 378 who wishes to go towards the city must alight - either walk through the Bondi Junction Mall - cross the road walk about 50-60m to catch a bus to go to city. The other way is to get off bus at Bondi Junction and walk to outside the bus station. A walk longer than the one I previously outlined.

I have outlined this as an example - I witnessed a mother with a small child about 3 years and a baby in a pram that had to negotiate this route in the rain.

Another concern is mine. If I have shopped at say Westfield, I cannot catch a bus outside Westfield as it is only a set down only stop. One has to either go to outside the bus transit station or as I have previously outline through the Bondi Junction Mall.

Recently, (early March 2022) I tried to catch a bus 333 to Bondi Beach that services Paddington. I went to catch the bus at Martin Place - it was raining and very windy so impossible to open umbrella. No one could tell me where the bus stop was except it was not at any of the four stop offs - I started to walk towards the Quay across Phillip Street - when I managed to hail a taxi. I have lived in Sydney for over 55 years and there has always been a bus stop at Martin Place. I never found where it have been moved. Another incident, trying to find bus stop for the 333 outside Hyde Park. It was still shown opposite Sheridan Hotel but no it had been moved to Corner of Hyde Park and Park and Elizabeth Streets. I was not the only one who was left not knowing where and when the bus stops and why the stops had been relocated.

What is obvious, the new owners of the bus routes have no consideration for the general public or for convenience of the public but only a consideration for profit for the company and their shareholders.

I have travelled a great deal and have been fortunate to have experienced spending time in some of the great cities of the world. I have used public transport in London to go to the opera to go to concerts at Royal Albert Hall and very similar in Geneva or Vienna. I was not alone and that is how the vast majority be of people travel in the great cities of the world. Sydney is up there with the great cities of the world give it a transport system that is user friendly and accessible for all to use. Let us not be depended on the 'Car, taxis.'

The public transport -buses, trains, ferries should not be privatised. Once the Government authority gives ownership to a private enterprise, that entity will only look

To profit it's shareholders.

Yours faithfully.