

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 11 March 2022

Partially
Confidential

Submission against the privatisation of Eastern Suburbs Buses

I wish to appeal against the privatisation of Eastern Suburbs buses because:

The NSW Government has not consulted with residents of the Eastern Suburbs about privatisation of the bus services. This is despite numerous public protests and petitions against privatisation and bus cuts which were signed by thousands of people. Further, without consultation and despite residents' protests, the NSW Government (through its agency Transport for NSW) and in preparation for April 2022's proposed privatisation of Eastern Suburbs buses, recently cut buses, changed routes, and removed bus stops.

The NSW Government has NOT BEEN GIVEN A MANDATE to privatise Eastern Suburbs buses, and indeed, the former Premier of NSW, Gladys Berijikian, publicly stated in the press in October 2019, that there would be no further privatisation of buses. I feel sadly, that the NSW Government had already agreed to privatise buses and had no intention of doing otherwise, despite locals' concerns.

The recent bus cuts, bus route changes and bus stop removals pre-April 2022's privatising of Eastern Suburbs buses are already affecting the ability of residents to travel easily to and from all parts of Sydney city. It means that major parts of the city cannot now be accessed by one bus as previously.

Privatisation will be detrimental to Eastern Suburbs buses in general as a private transport company is purely focussed on profitability and forgetting what passengers need.

Personal Examples

I never drive into the city because it is too costly to park and I prefer to do my bit to help minimise climate change. Therefore, I always use public transport. However, with recent changes to the 339-bus meaning it is not now accessing a lot of the city (I often meet friends at Circular Quay where the bus used to end its journey and we'd walk around the Rocks or might catch a ferry elsewhere). Travelling is made much more difficult as a result. It will probably mean making less trips into the city because of the poor transport.

As a senior, although currently fit, I am aware that I may not always be able to drive. I am therefore, very concerned that not only has the service declined because of the recent cuts and changes, but if privatisation goes ahead, then it will get even worse.

I ask the inquiry to please:

Consider seriously the needs of Sydney commuters over profitability. Thank you.