

## INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I noticed over the past 14 months that the NSW government has started cutting bus routes and privatising bus services.

I live in the lower north shore, which is a decision I made with my family to lessen our reliance on cars. By living within 8km of the Sydney CBD, public transport should be readily available.

And it was, until around Dec 2020/Jan 2021. Noticibly around that time, some of the key buses I use to get around the city were taken out of circulation. In particular, the 343 which neatly ran from Chatswood through the city (different route than all the 200's) to Kingsford, the M40 which ran all the way to Bondi Junction, and the the 257 - running from Chatswood to Balmoral Beach. The beach-bound routes in particlar were of great value for quick trips with the kids to the beach without having to manage parking in those heavily congested areas.

In fact, why would Balmoral and Bondi want more cars? It makes no sense for such environmentally-bound destinations to require visitors to arrive by car.

The fact that these changes were done without consultation to the community and during school holidays and COVID travel restrictions meant it was done in a very underhanded way. It also coincided with Tunnel planning phases and it gave the impression to locals of Willoughby electorate that then Premier and member for Willoughby was trying to create support for the (car-carrying) tunnels by reducing access to public transport. Or is it because they are trying to make space on the local roads for all the trucks that will be passing through the area with the spoils of the tunnel debris?

It's a bit like cutting off tap water supplies so that people have to buy bottled water. Then being able to say, hey look, people want to buy water! (Yeah, Sherlock. What a discovery. Water is a necessary part of life, as is public transport is to a metropolitan area, so stop making travel only accessible to car-driving residents.).

Think of the teens and young adults, the oldies, and the environmentally-minded residents who rely on public transportation to get around.

In short, think future. Don't funnel people to tunnels and cars. Don't require 2 bus routes for trips that we used to be able to complete with one bus route.

It's time that NSW started planning a Sydney for the future, not the 1950s.