



Call for restoration of full 311 bus service backed by NSW Upper House

Today in Parliament Greens MP and transport spokesperson Lee Rhiannon won the backing of the NSW Upper House for her motion calling on the government to restore the full 311 bus service in Elizabeth Bay and at Circular Quay.

"I am pleased the NSW Upper House has given solid backing to local residents who are working hard to reinstate the 311 service," said Ms Rhiannon.

"This motion, passed by 23 votes to 18, sends a strong message to Transport Minister David Campbell that his decision to cut the service is out of step with the needs of locals and is resulting in considerable hardship.

"This service is the only bus available for the residents of Elizabeth Bay and Woolloomooloo to access the city, Circular Quay and Central.

"The changes have left a large number of local residents isolated, and in some areas, housebound.

"In the debate on the Greens motion while Labor MPs backed the move to cut back on the 311 service they did acknowledge the difficulties many locals now face due to their reduced transport opportunities.

"I think Labor is now obliged to get shorter buses operating on this route. That is the way to solve this ridiculous problem the government has created.

"In the debate I informed the MPs of the need for the original 311 service because of the large number of elderly people in the area.

"The percentage of residents over 65 years is 17.8 per cent, which is more than double the percentage for the city of Sydney, which is 8.2 per cent.

"Many locals have mobility problems and the original bus service was a real life line.

"The government is not obliged to act on the Upper House motion but the fact that it was passed sends a strong message about public transport in east Sydney.

"Surely the Minister will recognise that he has a moral obligation to quickly restore this service to its original level of operation.

"The motion that was passed called on the government to reinstate the Ithaca Road, Billyard Avenue and Onslow Street loop on the 311 bus service, and return the terminating point for the 311 service to Circular Quay rather than Gresham Street," Ms Rhiannon said.

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