

Friday 22 January 2021

COUNCIL NOT CONSULTED ON CONTROVERSIAL BUS CHANGES

The City of Ryde has refuted claims that it was consulted on cancellations and changes to local bus routes which will severely impact many people within the community.

Last December, Transport for NSW announced an overhaul of some bus services that pass through the City of Ryde. Some of the changes, which will take effect from 24 January, include:

- Withdrawal of route M52 between Parramatta and Circular Quay
- Withdrawal of route 520 between Parramatta and Circular Quay
- Withdrawal of route X15 between Eastwood and Town Hall
- Withdrawal of route X18 between Denistone East and Town Hall
- Withdrawal of route X06 between East Ryde and the Domain
- Change to route 515 to operate between Eastwood and Top Ryde (currently operates between Eastwood and the city)
- Change to route 518 to operate between Macquarie University and Top Ryde (currently operates between Macquarie University and the city)
- Change to route 525 to operate between Parramatta and Strathfield (currently operates between Macquarie University and Burwood)
- A new route 500X to commence between West Ryde and Hyde Park.

Following criticisms of the changes by locals, Transport for NSW claimed that it had consulted with the City of Ryde and City of Parramatta councils. However, the City of Ryde can confirm it was only provided formal written confirmation of the changes on the same day they were announced on 3 December 2020.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said Transport for NSW needed to come clean on the amount of community consultation it undertook before implementing these changes.

“The Minister and his department have been caught telling porkies,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Notification is not consultation. At no time was Council consulted about the cancellations or changes. Rather it was notified by Transport for NSW that this horrendous overhaul to key local bus routes was being introduced with no chance for Council to analyse and provide appropriate feedback.

“Instead of lying about it, the State Government should halt these changes to allow for a full and transparent consultation to take place.

“I call on the Minister to immediately intervene and stop these changes coming into force on 24 January.”

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