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3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015

The Honourable Andrew Constance MP  
Minister for Transport and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir

**Accessibility of Edgecliff Interchange and Bus Routes 327 and 328**

We wish to bring to your attention several matters of interest to the residents of Darling Point, Sydney and changes imposed by the State Government which have the potential to seriously impact upon public transport and the transport infrastructure within Darling Point as well as seriously affect quality of life for many residents.

The Darling Point Society Inc. (**Darling Point Society**) is a non profit community organisation and representative body of the residents of Darling Point. The mission of the Darling Point Society is to encourage community debate in an attempt to create a balance between development and amenity, heritage and character within the suburb.

The following documents are of relevant to this submission:

- Letter dated 9 October 2015 received from The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP in respect of the lift announcement for the Edgecliff Interchange and new Bus Route 328 ;
- Submission to The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP dated 22 October 2015 in respect of the Edgecliff Interchange, parking and public transport arrangements in Darling Point and its surrounding suburbs ; and
- Petition for accessibility update for the Edgecliff Interchange and continuation of Bus Route 327.

The Letter, Submission and Petition are **attached** for your reference.

**Edgecliff Interchange**

We wish to raise the lift issue at the Edgecliff Interchange which the State Government previously pledged to build and, at the date of this submission, has not been constructed.

We want to stress the difficulty of disabled sailors (going downhill to Sailability) some of whom are blind, people who disabilities, expectant mothers, mothers with young children and people having difficulty in managing stairs whether old or temporarily handicapped.

We ask that you consider restoring Bus Route (327) until the lift at the Edgecliff Interchange is constructed and in use. The reinstatement of Bus Route 327 is necessary as it could take in a broader route including Double Bay (easier access to ferry than Darling Point and frequent service), Kings Cross (St Vincent's Hospital) Macquarie Street where many residents have regular medical appointments and Circular Quay.

## Changes to Bus Routes

We wish to raise concern about the existing bus network which operates around Darling Point, its surrounding suburbs and Sydney CBD, beyond Park Street.

We have conducted discussions with residents of Darling Point and have received feedback from many concerned residents.

Our residents have raised issue with cessation of Bus Route 327 and the existing bus network which will be outlined below.

## Bus Network

Residents of Darling Point are deeply concerned about the bus route changes in Darling Point and in particular, the withdrawal of a direct access bus service to Circular Quay. The transport changes for Darling Point appear to be designed to keep buses out of the Sydney CBD (and not just because of the light rail) as opposed to maintaining and providing a quality service to the Darling Point community.

The changing and ageing population demographic of Darling Point necessitates a convenient public transport service to and from the Sydney CBD beyond Park Street, and this is not recognised in the changes. The public transport network changes have resulted in the following for the residents of Darling Point and the surrounding suburbs:

1. No direct buses to the Sydney CBD and Circular Quay from Darling Point;
2. Bus Route 328:
  - (a) travel around Darling Point and terminating at Edgecliff ;
  - (b) travel around Darling Point and terminating at Bondi Junction Interchange during off peak hours;
3. No buses via Elizabeth Street from Darling Point into Sydney CBD, beyond Park Street.
4. Bus Routes 323 and 326 terminate at Edgecliff Station and do not proceed to Sydney CBD, beyond Park Street.
5. Bus Routes 324 and 325 will terminate at Town Hall and go on to Barangaroo.
6. Bus route 200 is available from the interchange.
7. To access bus 324,325 and 200 at the Edgecliff street level, people have to walk up from Darling Point Road, this is not possible for everybody.
8. Buses 324, 325 and 200 do not go to Macquarie Street or Circular Quay.
9. There are buses still circulating in the city via Elizabeth Street and going to many other suburbs

The implementation of the new bus network, in its current form, is insufficient and is ineffective to meet the public transport needs of the residents.

A letter from a concerned resident in relation to the current bus network is reproduced below:

"A reduction in the number of buses must result in an increase in the number of car trips to the city. New South Head Rd and William St are already overburdened with traffic every day of the week. Not all current bus users can use the train and will have to resort to car or taxi. Many of the elderly do not drive at all. Some people used to take the 327 to shop at Kings cross as they cannot manage the steps at Edgecliff.

The new transport arrangements have made daily life difficult for many people, who are left with few alternatives: take a taxi or stay at home."

### **Changes to Bus Route 327**

A letter from a concerned resident in relation to Bus Route 327 has been reproduced below with a view of setting out the effect of cease the services of Bus Route 327 and a proposal for the State Government to consider to resolve the existing issue:

"To cease running this bus route (327) is going to cause untold hardship to so many in the area. Surely some sort of compromise can be reached? I would appreciate your comments, also as to why I had to find out about this in the way I did rather than being informed through the press or other means.

As a suggestion I would recommend the transport authority purchase, what in London, are called a commuter or feeder buses, about half the size of our present buses. Have this bus stationed at Edgecliff (Rail Link) and run it to cover Point Piper /Double Bay/ Darling Point / Rushcutters Bay. It seems to me this would be such a simple way to keep residents in these areas happy".

### **Resulting effects of new bus changes:**

1. Increased demand for parking in Darling Point Road from commuters, making parking almost impossible for locals
2. The parking station at Edgecliff is not coping with the increased demand from commuters
3. increased traffic going to and returning from the city on New South Head Road Rushcutters Bay causing blockages and congestion up to Edgecliff.
4. Extreme inconvenience and difficulties for residents

### **Requested action**

Darling Point Society respectfully requests the Minister to:

1. ensure that construction of the lift at Edgecliff Interchange is followed through in a reasonable time frame (less than 2 years);
2. reinstate Bus Route 327 until the lift is built and functioning; or broaden Bus route 328
3. consider proposals for reinstatement or otherwise, extension of the existing bus routes, allowing residents of Darling Point increased accessibility to Sydney CBD, beyond Park Street and Double Bay and Point Piper.

4. introduce feeder buses to cover Darling Point, Double Bay, Point Piper, Kings cross and Macquarie Street.

The Darling Point Society thanks you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any queries or if we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Charlotte Feldman  
President  
Darling Point Society Inc.

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