



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Motions

15 February 2018

KEOLIS DOWNER BUS SERVICES

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) (1:22 pm):

In reply: I thank the speakers on this motion, including every member—Labor and Independent—of electorates in the Hunter which are affected by this. It is a testament to the fact that we all care about public transport and we want to make it better. I thank the members representing the electorates of Charlestown, Oatley, Terrigal, Newcastle, Riverstone, Swansea and Lake Macquarie, and the Minister for Transport and member for Bega. This has been a good debate. I am pleased that the Minister was involved in the debate and I was pleased to hear that there is an opportunity for a network review. That is what we are asking for, because there have been so many major problems with this service. Those problems have been highlighted by every one of the members on this side of the House who spoke today. We acknowledge that there were problems with the services before, but those services have not been improved.

The Minister talked about data, and some positive signs. I wonder if the increase in the number of trips is due to people now having to catch three or four buses instead of one. That will be worked out. I am also glad that the Minister acknowledged concern for people with disabilities. He is conscious of their needs, so let us hope that improvements can be made for people who have lost their jobs because they cannot get to work, as mentioned by the member for Charlestown.,

Fixing those sorts of problems is what we are about here today. I want to make it better for people. I have been a member for 11 years because my job is to fix those sorts of things for people. That is the job of all members of Parliament. The member for Charlestown talked about people with disability who have had to quit their jobs. Let us hope that that can be fixed now that the Minister has listened to that contribution. The member for Charlestown also talked about the proximity of some of the public transport services that are now no longer available. That is a worry. She mentioned young students who have to cross dangerous roads to get to schools. That is also a worry.

The member for Oatley is a smart guy but unfortunately he seems to have read the wrong motion. He talked a lot about trains when the motion did not mention trains. He was advocating very hard for the Government, and I understand why he did that. He spoke about a world-class transport service, but unfortunately what we have right now is a Third World transport service. Let us make sure that it is improved. The member for Terrigal is also a smart man but he was a little bit off track today. He talked about Transport for NSW, easy connections and delivery of services. We have not quite achieved that but we are hoping for some changes.

The member for Newcastle made a good point. He reminded us that when Mike Baird was the Premier he came to talk to us at Civic Park. Mike Baird said that he would not go ahead with a change to services if he could not promise better services. Let us hope that the Government holds itself to that promise. The member for Newcastle also highlighted the complicated bus routes for some people, and the time-consuming journeys that they have to take. Those things do not encourage residents, no matter where they live, to catch public transport.

The member for Riverstone was a little bit confused because, even though the network started in January, Keolis Downer took it over in July last year. I just wanted to correct that because we live there so we know. The member for Swansea also spoke very eloquently. She talked about the Government at the time refusing to acknowledge that there were problems with the services. The Minister now has been made aware of those problems. The member for Lake Macquarie also highlighted the things we have been talking about. I thank members for diligently participating in this debate. I urge them to support the motion.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin): The question is that the motion be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes35

Noes46

Majority11