



**A Petition from Northern Draw Area Families
for
Improved Transport Services to St Ives High School
Our in catchment co-educational high school**

Dear Mr Kean,

As the president of Asquith Public School P&C Association, I am writing to you on behalf of five P&C associations in the Northern Draw catchment for St Ives High School who carried out a petition to support the improvement of public transport options between the catchment area and St Ives High School.

St Ives High School is the local co-ed catchment high school for most families living in Waitara, Hornsby, Asquith, Mt Colah and Mt Kuring-gai. Frequent, integrated bus and train services are vital to ensure our kids can easily get to and from St Ives High, taking into account senior lessons and extra-curricular activities that are an important part of a students' education and positive high school experience.

The lack of integrated train and bus services, poor scheduling, and insufficient capacity for the growing number of students travelling from the Northern Draw catchment:

- **has a negative impact on the wellbeing of students**, who face unpredictable and unacceptably long journey times home
- **has a negative impact on the environment**, as parents opt to drive their children due to the lack of viable transport options
- **creates an inequality for many students who wish to take part in extra-curricular activities** that are part of school life but have no access to a viable transport service and do not have anyone to drive them to and from St Ives High.

The Asquith, Mt Colah, Mt Kuring-Gai, Hornsby North and Waitara Primary School P&C Associations have worked together with the local community to petition for improved public

transport options from the Northern Draw Catchment of St Ives High School to their in-catchment co-ed high school, St Ives High.

Our petition received 495 responses representing ten primary schools from families living in nine suburbs in the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai areas. A full report detailing the signatories to this petition and their feedback is included with this letter.

We have chosen this time to petition for:

1. Additional dedicated and public bus services between Gordon Train Station and St Ives High School between 7 am and 9 am.
2. Additional dedicated and public bus services from St Ives High School to Gordon Train Station between 2:15 pm and 5 pm
3. Increased frequency of train services from Gordon Train Station to beyond Hornsby (Asquith, Mt Colah, Mt Kuring-Gai, Berowra) between 2:30 pm and 5 pm (up to 30 minute wait time between trains with the current timetable)
4. St Ives High to have dedicated afternoon bus services to Gordon Train station, originating at St Ives High.
5. The re-introduction of the cancelled 594H direct bus services from Hornsby Station to St Ives High School (AM) or, an extension of the existing 591 Service between Hornsby and St Ives to include St Ives High (before terminating at St Ives Shops). An increase in service frequency running every 20 minutes between 7 am and 8 am (4 services) and from St Ives High School to Hornsby every 20 minutes between 3:20 pm and 4:20 pm (4 services).

Most Northern Draw catchment students must utilise more than one form of public transport to get to and from school (bus/train/bus or train/bus for example). Let's make it as simple and efficient as possible.

The timetables for buses and trains need to take into account regular school hours (8:50 am – 3:15 pm), senior lessons (starting 7:47 am for before school, finishing 4:18 pm for after school lessons) and [extra-curricular activities](#) (starting 7:30am before school and finishing after 4:30 pm for after school activities) that are an important part of a students' education, development, and positive high school experience.

It's at least a 30-minute walk from Gordon Train Station to St Ives High School (2.8km) or from St Ives Village Shops (2.3km) where the closest bus service to and from Hornsby Station (591) terminates.

Where there are no viable public transport options to get students to and from extra-curricular activities within acceptable journey time, parents are forced to drive their children to high school. Where driving is not an option, students cannot participate.

Preferencing private transport over public transport increases traffic volumes on the already busy roads between Hornsby and St Ives and introduces more vehicles to the congested streets surrounding the high school. It is bad for the environment and reinforces negative

attitudes towards public transport amongst students and their families. It also creates an inequality amongst students who can be driven to school versus those who cannot be driven. There are extra-curricular activities offered every day before and after school at St Ives High School include Gardening Club, Coding Club, Robotics, Oz-tag, multiple Bands and Choirs, Bootcamp, Debating, English at The Writing Centre and homework help at Beyond the Bell.

Student enrolments have increased by more than 30% since 2014 This is a result of the continued expansion of housing supply in the area (driven by the Hornsby Shire Housing Strategy) and strong HSC results leading to families moving into catchment so that they can enrol their children at the school.

Student Numbers by Year Source: MySchool Website	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 <i>Estimate*</i>
St Ives High	918	930	944	947	1006	1046	1114	1200

*This estimate *excludes* Intensive English Centre Enrolments at St Ives High in Term 4 2020

Based on participating public primary school populations (divided by 7 (Kindergarten to Year 6), there are 430 Year 6 students in the Northern Draw catchment, deciding on which high school to attend in 2021, with the majority in catchment for St Ives High School.

School	Estimated Students	Estimated Year 6 students
Mt Colah	460	66
Asquith Public	420	60
Waitara Public School	977	140
Hornsby North Public school	960	137
Mount Kuring-Gai Public School	190	27
Total In Catchment	3007	430

2021 Student enrolments at St Ives High have exceeded original the estimate of 210 and currently stand at 260, which equates to nine Year 7 classes. St Ives High no longer accepts out of area enrolments and the demand on public transport continues to rise.

We urge you to undertake a detailed review of the transport services serving St Ives High School, request additional bus services before and after school (from Transdev) to and from Hornsby and Gordon Station to the high school and request an increase in the frequency of trains that go beyond Hornsby, stopping all stops to Berowra pre PM peak hour as a matter of priority, so appropriate changes can be planned and implemented before the start of the new school year in late January 2021.

We thank you for your time and attention to our concerns. If you would like to contact our campaign coordinator, Mr Robert Peacock of Asquith Public School P&C Association, please email petitions@stivespandc.com.

This petition to improve public transport options to and from St Ives High School for the Northern Draw catchment was supported and promoted by the following public school Parents and Citizens Associations (P&C) working together towards a common goal:

Asquith Public School P&C



Robert Peacock (President)

Waitara Public School P&C



Jack Liu (President)

Hornsby North Public School P&C



Janelle McIntosh (President)

Mount Colah Public School P&C



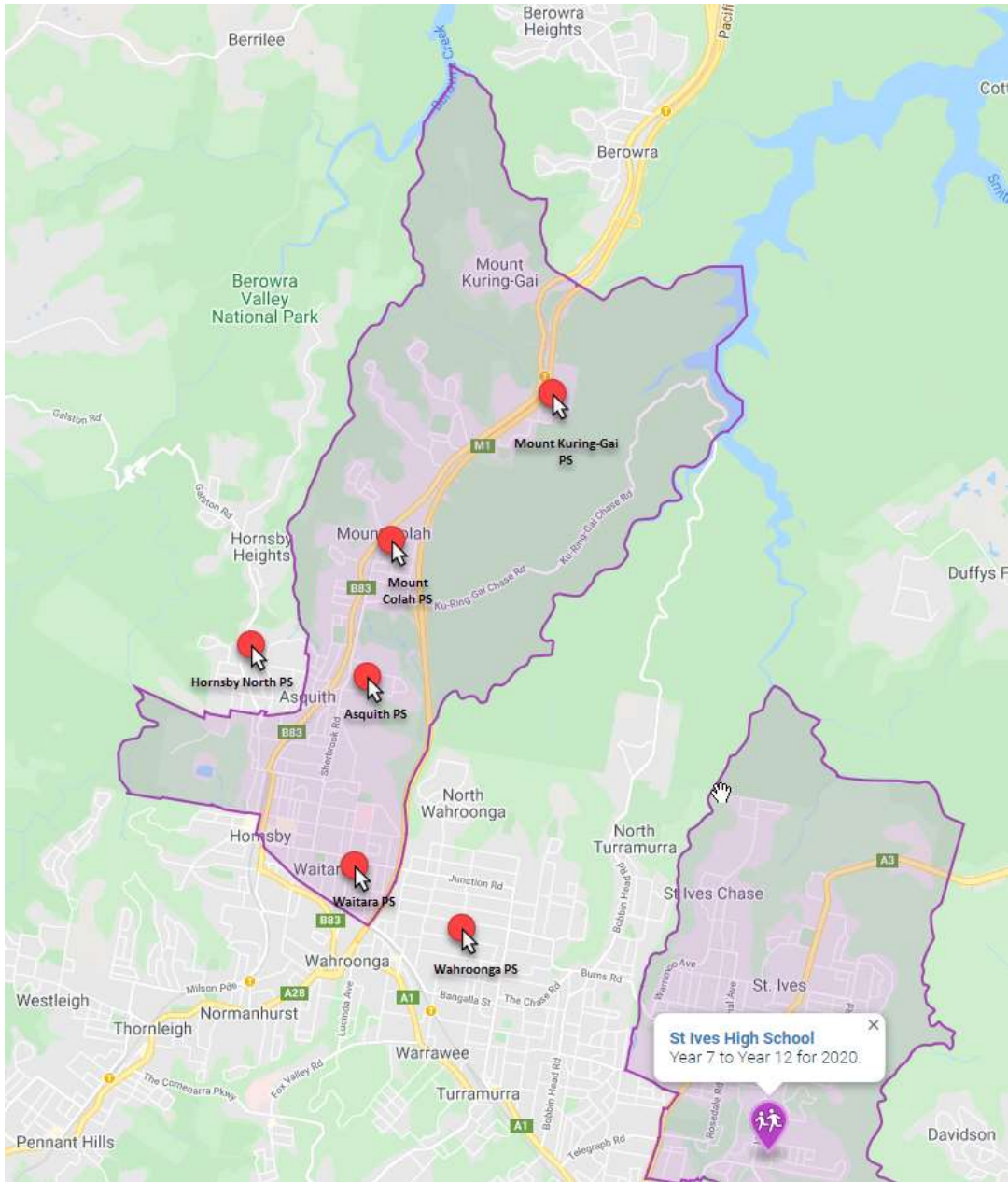
Rebecca Shu (President)

Mount Kuring-Gai Public School P&C



Lindy Donnelly (President)

St Ives High School Northern Draw catchment and public school locations.



Primary School attended

Which Primary School does your child/do your children currently attend?

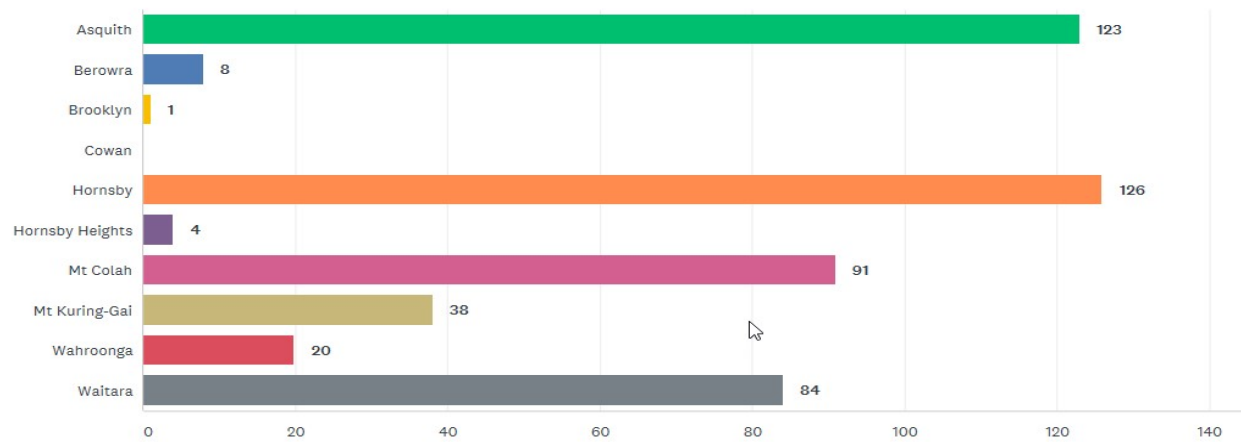
Answered: 495 Skipped: 0



Residential suburb of petition responders

Your Suburb

Answered: 495 Skipped: 0



Additional Details

Before School Travel

In the morning, [school buses](#) commence at 8:20am from Gordon Station with services departing Gordon at 8:20, 8:25, 8:35, 8:39 for St Ives High School. The 8:39am bus arrives at 8:47 (if there are no delays) giving students 3 minutes to get to class or be recorded as late.

To get to morning extra-curricular activities, such as band rehearsals or boot camp at 7:30am, there is a [582 bus](#) departing Gordon Station 7:07 (arriving 7:11) then no bus for 34 minutes until 7:41 arriving 7:45 am, missing the first 15-20 minutes of the activity. A student from Mt Kuring-Gai would have to catch the 6:36am train to then get the 7:07am bus to school.

The only direct bus service between Hornsby Station stopping at St Ives High School ([route 594H](#)) was **cancelled** a year ago. It left Hornsby at 7:04am and 7:24am taking approximately 25 minutes to St Ives High.

The closest remaining bus route from Hornsby to St Ives High via Waitara is the 591 bus between Hornsby Station and St Ives which terminates at St Ives Shops, from there it is a 2km 25 minute walk to St Ives High. For many students it is not possible to get to music program rehearsals (or other extracurricular before school activities) on time by public transport since the direct bus was cancelled.

From Gordon Train station it is a 30 minute walk to St Ives High School.

After School Travel

In the afternoon, students who live beyond Hornsby need to get the 15:45 train from Gordon or face a 30 minute wait.

Some but not all students receive priority boarding on the school buses: 9046 (15:22 arrives Gordon 15:28), 9005 (15:26 arrives 15:33), 9005 (15:30 arrives 15:37), 9078 (15:40 arrives 15:48) and 9084 (15:50 arriving 16:00) after which there is a public 582 bus that runs every half an hour or so to Gordon Station.

The first bus from St Ives High to Gordon Station is shared with Killara High School, originating at Killara. When this and other services are late getting to St Ives High, many students miss the 3:45 pm train from Gordon, and there is a **half-hour wait** for the next train servicing stations beyond Hornsby.

What do we want changed?

We want more frequent train and bus services scheduled to coincide with St Ives High School lesson and activity times, with capacity for the growing number of students travelling from the Northern Draw Catchment

The current situation:

- has a negative impact on the wellbeing of our children
- substantially increases travel time to and from high school
- has a negative impact on the environment
- creates an inequality for students who wish to take part in extra-curricular activities that are part of school life.
- In Term 4 2020 the Intensive English Centre (IEC) is relocating from Chatswood High School to St Ives High school. **Transdev has put forward a proposal for additional transport** for IEC students to and from St Ives High School for IEC students only.

