



Extract: St Ives / St Ives chase / Pymble ONLY

St Ives High P&C Student Transport Survey - March 2023

Issues with bus services in the SIHS St Ives Draw Area:

Specifically:

245 St Ives Chase Service: On Tuesday SIHS finishes at the earlier bell time of 2.15 pm. There is no school bus service for St Ives Chase students at the Tues PM Bell. These students have to wait one hour to take the 3.15 PM bus from school.

194: Very unreliable and always full.

247: frequently late or does not show up at all

582: Unreliable and the timetable does not match up with school bell times

In general:

Buses are not frequent enough

Buses are overcrowded

Services are unreliable – often cancelled with no prior warning.

Services are often late – meaning students are late to school

Bus timetables do not match up with School bell times

A fractured service – short distances can take a disproportionately long time to complete: e.g.

Killara, 6kms, nearly an hour!

The unreliability of services is a significant cause of anxiety and stress for students. It also prevents some students from participating in St Ives High Extracurriculars because they cannot get to and from school in a safe, predictable and timely manner using public transport.

Some of the public bus services that these students rely on do not stop in the school bus bays directly outside St Ives HS on Yarrabung Road. Consequently, students are often observed crossing Horace Street or Yarrabung in an unsafe manner in a bid to catch a bus home.

Some students opt to get to school an hour early just to ensure they arrive on time as the buses are so unreliable.

Impacts of poor transport services:

Unreliability of services forces parents to opt for private transport over public transport. This has a direct impact on traffic levels around the school as well as family life:

28% of parents in the St Ives Draw cite unreliable/unavailable public transport as the reason for driving their children to and from school. The average time taken for a round trip is less than 30 minutes.

Many parents state that their children would take public transport if it was reliable and the timetables aligned with the school day.

Family Life:

43% make adjustments to their work or caring arrangements in order to drive their child/ren to and from school. They:

- Change their days of work
- Change their hours of work
- Opt to work from home – especially on Tuesdays if they live in St Ives Chase and there is no 2.15 bus at the PM bell
- Opt to work locally so they can fit in the school runs
- Forgo lunch breaks or work late to make up the time
- Rely on relatives to do the school runs

This disruption to their working day has an economic cost.

Impacts of increased traffic in the Yarrabung Road Precinct:

Increased pollution from cars

Increased risky driver behaviour and incorrect usage of the St Ives High Drop and Collect Zones in Yarrabung and Horace as drivers drop their child/ren

Disruption to bus services as drivers park in bus zones

In a bid to catch a public bus home, students often engage in risky pedestrian behaviour in order to get to bus stops located on the west side of Horace or Eucalyptus Street (near the Eastern Arterial/Horace roundabout).

There is only one signalised crossing on Horace located midway outside St Ives Public, and students will often run across the road as the lights change in a bid to catch their bus.