



**St Ives High P&C Student Transport, Traffic and Road Safety Working Group**  
**Hornsby Shire Council Mayoral Meeting**  
**13 October 2021**

**Northern Draw Convenor:** Robert Peacock, Vice President, Asquith PS [asquithpublicpandc.vp@gmail.com](mailto:asquithpublicpandc.vp@gmail.com)

**Northern Draw Members:** Mt Ku-ring-gai PS P&C President, **Lindy Donnelly**

Mt Ku-ring-gai PS P&C Vice President, **Melissa Wood**

Mt Colah PS P&C President, **Rebecca Shu**

Waitara PS P&C President, **Jack Liu**

St Ives High P&C Working Group Convenor: Liz Paul, [surveys@stivespandc.com](mailto:surveys@stivespandc.com)

St Ives High School P&C President, **Libby Cameron (Apologies)**

St Ives PS President, **Bianca Jensen (Apologies)**

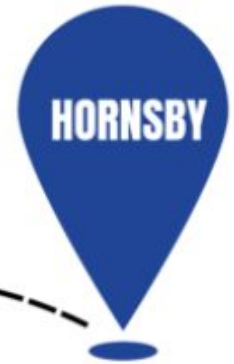
**Mr Martin Smith**, [martinsmith@kmc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:martinsmith@kmc.nsw.gov.au)



**MORE FREQUENT**  
bus services to  
Gordon station



**EXTEND BUS SERVICE**  
from Hornsby  
to include SHS



**We are not asking for money, we are asking your support. Specifically, that:**

**1. Hornsby Shire Council lobby for:**

- **An extension to the public 591 bus route (Hornsby to St Ives Shops via Waitara) currently terminating at St Ives Village, to include a St Ives High Yarrabung Road loop, *and***
- **More frequent public 582 bus services between Yarrabung Road and Gordon Station.**

**2. The General Manager write to each of the local State and Federal Members of Parliament; the Minister for Transport; and the Secretary of Transport seeking support for, and commitment to, these changes to the 591 bus route and additional 582 services being provided.**

**3. Council also lobby State Rail and Members of Parliament for more frequent train services between Hornsby and Berowra, and that these additional services integrate with connecting bus services.**

## Why are we asking for Council's support?

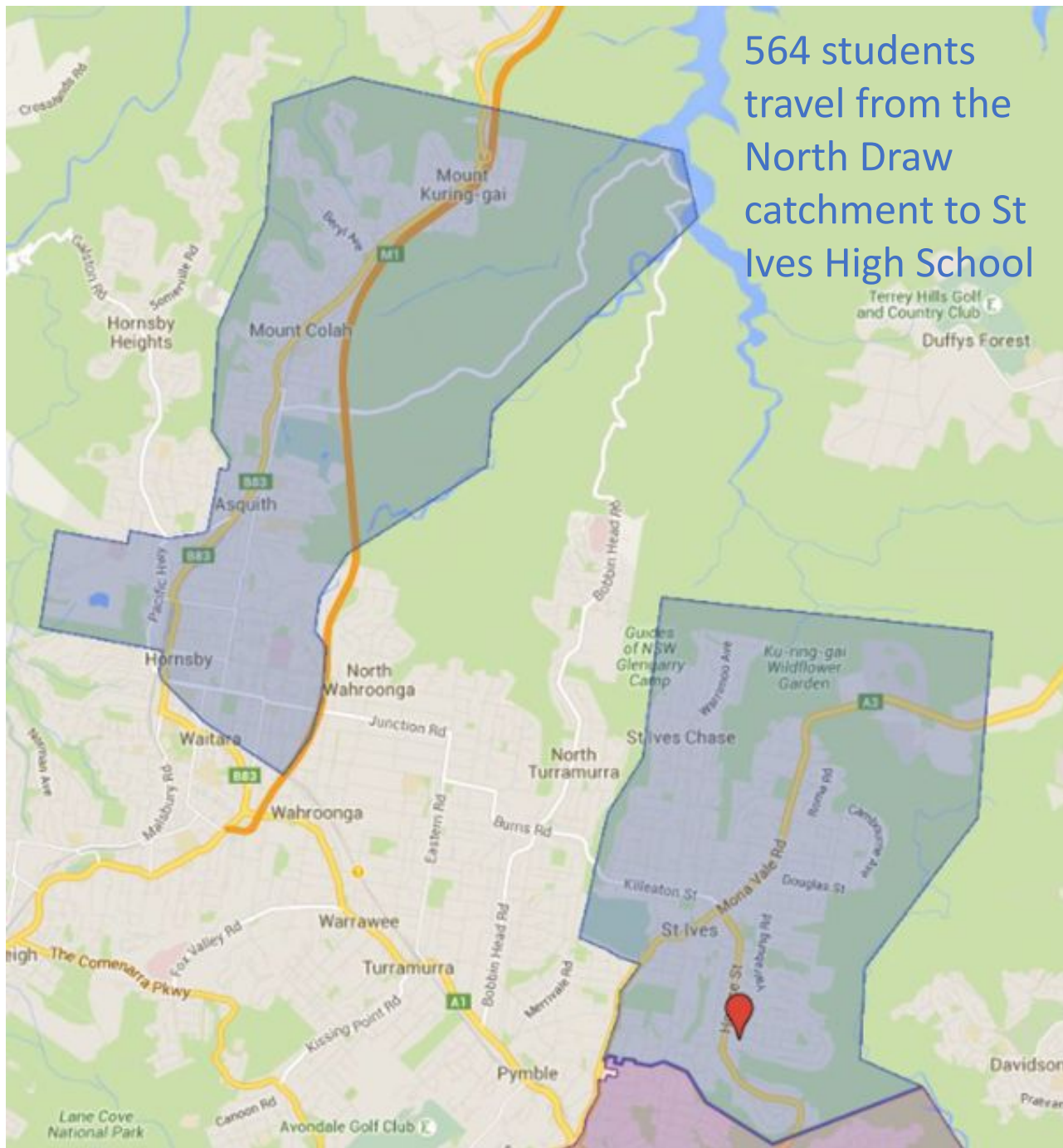
The 14 July motion that HSC lobby NSW State Government for better services between Berowra and Hawkesbury River Stations benefits visitors, Brooklyn residents and potential residents from any Peat's Island development.

**We want Council to show their support for all public co-ed high school students and their families living in the Hornsby LGA by lobbying the NSW State Government for better transport services. Transport provision has not kept pace with local population increases as can be seen the table below.**

Train Patronage	2016	2019 / 2020	
Station	Entries 24 hours		% Increase
Mt Ku-ring Gai	250	350 [2019]	<b>+40%</b>
Mt Colah	500	820 [Feb 2020]	<b>+64%</b>
Asquith	1420	2050 [Feb 2020]	<b>+44%</b>
Hornsby	12,190	14,160 [Feb 2020]	<b>+16%</b>
Waitara	3150	4,250 [Feb 2020]	<b>+35%</b>

**Source: Station Entries/Exits 2016 to 2020: Source GIPA Request**

Barrier counts = a rounded average of a three day sample, usually taken on Tues, Wed and Thurs. Represent a 'typical day'.



564 students travel from the North Draw catchment to St Ives High School

The St Ives High School Catchment Area is **unique** in that it includes the local St Ives Area plus the Northern Draw, comprising Waitara/ Hornsby and suburbs north of Hornsby as far as Mount Ku-Ring-Gai.

**Nearly 50% of the total student population currently resides outside the St Ives Catchment,** meaning they rely on public transport to get to and from school.

## Fast Facts About Bus Services for Northern Draw St Ives High Students:

- There are **no direct transport options** between the North Draw Catchment (from Waitara to Mt Kuring-Gai) and St Ives High School
- There is currently **no direct bus service from the major transport hub of Hornsby to St Ives High School**. The H594 Hornsby to the City commuter service was cancelled in 2018.
- Even at full capacity (63 people per bus) St Ives High **Northern Draw students alone would fill 9 buses to Gordon Station**. Transdev currently only provides 5 school buses.

**Why has the provision of transport not kept pace with student numbers?**

## Fast Facts about the St Ives High Student Body:

- **More than 550 students from the Hornsby Electorate Wards A and B** attend St Ives High School. This is their co-ed public catchment high school.
- Extracurricular activities are an essential part of the St Ives High Student Wellbeing Programme. **Bus Services outside regular bell times are inadequate and unreliable**. Northern Draw students who want to participate in the many extracurricular activities on offer must be driven to school or they miss out.
- Every week over 400 St Ives High senior students attend **mandatory Period Zero and Period Six classes**. Period Zero starts at 7.47 AM and Period Six finishes at 4.15 PM. There are **no scheduled bus services to cater for these students**.

We need solutions. Student Enrolments at St Ives High are Steadily Increasing and so are the transport problems.....

Student Numbers by Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
St Ives High	918	930	944	947	1006	1121	1122	1210	1350

There has been a steady increase in student numbers from both catchments but no corresponding increase in transport services to meet increased demand.

# In 2022 there will be over 500 students from the Northern Draw....

Note the big increases (in yellow) in student numbers from:

Asquith

Mount Colah

Waitara

Northern Draw St Ives High Student Enrolments by Suburb							
Student Year Group 2022 Enrolments @ Aug 2021							
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Grand Total
ASQUITH	34	21	15	22	10	7	109
BEROWRA	1		3	3	3	3	13
BEROWRA HEIGHTS				2	1		3
HORNSBY	64	30	30	27	30	21	202
HORNSBY HEIGHTS		1	1	1	3	4	10
MOUNT COLAH	30	17	20	12	15	8	102
MOUNT KURING-GAI	3	5	4	2	2	1	17
WAITARA	51	20	11	12	10	4	108
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>564</b>

These suburbs are targeted in the Hornsby Shire Housing Strategy for more dwellings. The resulting population increase is feeding through into school enrolments and increased patronage at the local train stations. Local residents would also benefit from more train services between Hornsby & Berowra.



## Students living beyond Hornsby Asquith – Berowra

**These students can often spend up to three hours a day commuting** to and from their catchment public, co-ed high school because of inadequate bus services and the low frequency of train services stopping beyond Hornsby. There are not enough bus services for students and the train and bus schedules are not aligned.

**4 buses at maximum capacity are required for students living beyond Hornsby to get to Gordon Station in time for the 3.45 PM train** or face a 30 minute wait for the next train that stops at Asquith, Mt Colah, Mt Ku-ring-gai and Berowra.

**[254 students/63 Transdev Max Bus Capacity]**

- In 2022 there **will be enough Northern Draw Students fill 9 buses** and yet there are **currently only 5 school buses** from St Ives High direct to Gordon Station at the afternoon bell. **A shortfall of 4 buses**

## Students living in Hornsby or Waitara

**These students can spend up to two hours a day commuting to school**. They are most likely to live at a distance from a train station, so the train/bus combination is very inefficient. These students catch two buses and a train, or sometimes three buses, for a journey that would take less than 20 minutes by car. **They do not qualify for a Push Pass**, so must wait until students living beyond Hornsby have boarded the bus. They can wait a long time to get on the first bus!

A 591 service extended to St Ives High School would give these students a quicker and direct means of travel home.

**5 buses are required to get students living in Hornsby or Waitara to Gordon Station [310/63 Transdev stated Max Bus Capacity]**



**We have done the groundwork and gathered data and feedback about transport issues to support our case.**

Our 2020 and 2021 campaign survey feedback demonstrates that **the lack of integrated train and bus services, poor scheduling, and insufficient capacity for the growing number of students who need to use them:**

- **has a negative impact on the wellbeing of students,** who face unpredictable and unacceptably long journey times to and from school
- **has a negative impact on the environment,** as parents opt to drive their children due to the lack of viable transport options
- **creates 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. It also creates challenges for senior students attending Period 0 and Period 6 outside of regular bell times.



**St Ives High School P&C Association**  
**2020 Student Transport & Traffic Survey.**  
 Open 26<sup>th</sup> August to 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

**This survey had a 46% response rate. 400 families completed the survey, representing 517 students**



**Local St Ives Community Outreach.**  
 Open 3<sup>rd</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

St Ives High School P&C Association wants St Ives High to be a good neighbour. Our transport issues go hand-in-hand with local traffic issues around St Ives High. We used an online form to collect feedback from local residents regarding traffic (volumes/flow/management), pedestrian safety and experience, and public transport services to the area.

**We received 135 responses from concerned local residents**

### The St Ives High Transport and Traffic Campaign

is a uniting force across schools and communities. We have built a campaign network from stretching from Mt Ku-ring-gai to St Ives and beyond. This campaign has demonstrated an unprecedented level of co-operation between P&C Associations.

*Over 1,250 participants*

Thank you to the following P&C's who are actively working together to promote our campaign:

- Asquith Public P&C Association*
- Hornsby North Public P&C Association*
- Mt Colah Public P&C Association*
- Mt Ku-ring-gai Public P&C Association*
- St Ives Public P&C Association*
- St Ives High P&C Association*
- Waitara Public P&C Association*



**St Ives High Northern Draw Primary P&C Association**  
 Petition for  
**Improved Student Transport to St Ives High.**  
 Open 2<sup>nd</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

**495 signatories from ten primary schools and families living in nine suburbs in the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai areas want improved student transport to St Ives High. 164 families also provided written comments on this issue.**



**St Ives Primary P&C Association Traffic & Pedestrian**  
**Survey Open 13-24th October**

The purpose of this survey is to gather data from the St Ives Public School (SIPS) community about how our children are travelling TO and FROM school and what the St Ives Primary community concerns are regarding the pedestrian experience and traffic in the local area.

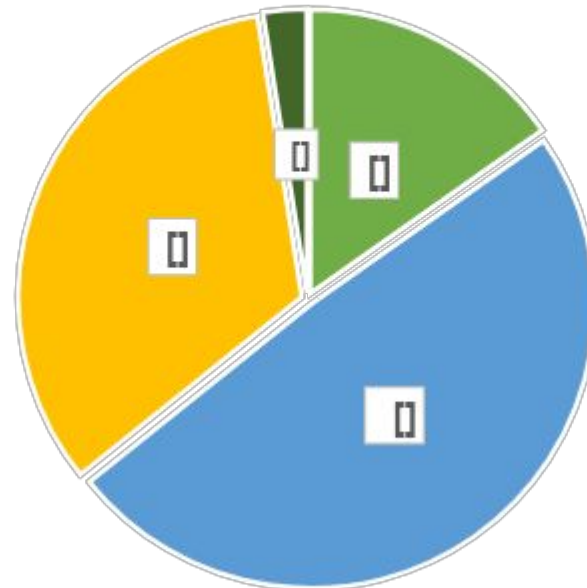
**227 families have responded to this survey, representing approximately 58% of families at the school.**

# 2020 St Ives High Student Transport & Traffic Survey

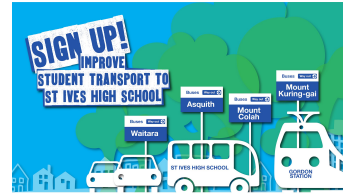
One survey per St Ives High family. 400 responses, 46% response rate



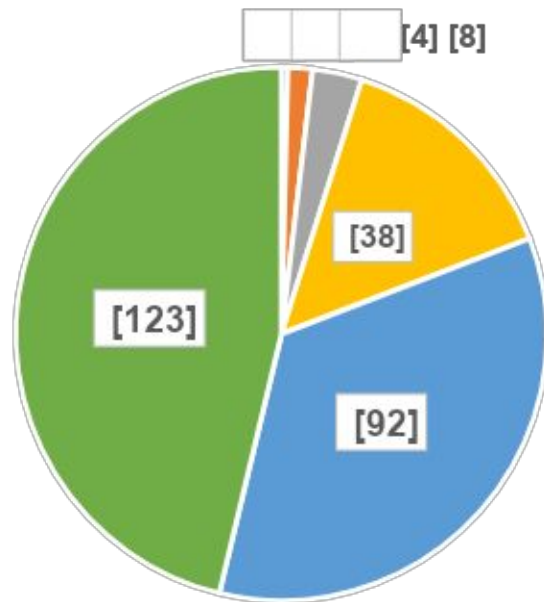
**Responses by State Electorate**  
**[n=400]**



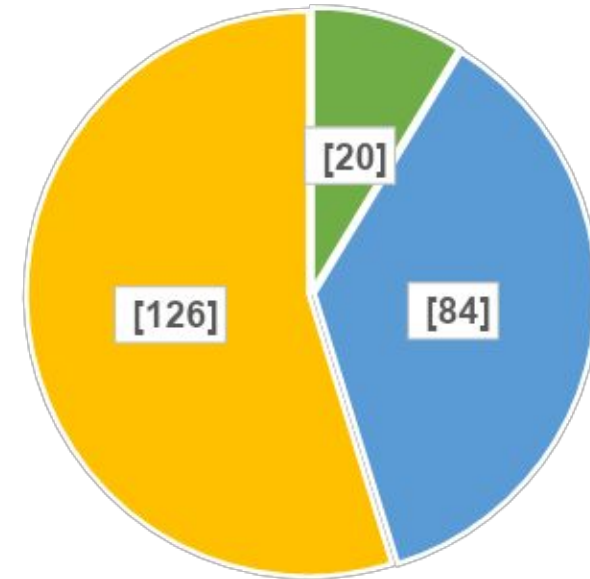
# 2020 Northern Draw Petition for Better Transport to St Ives High Breakdown of Responses by Ward of Residence [n=496]



**Ward A [n=266, 54%]**



**Ward B [n=230, 46%]**



On average it currently takes me over an hour to get home from school when it would be less than 10 minutes to drive. I live really close....At the moment, **the majority of my time between the bell and arriving at home is spent waiting to be allowed into the bus line because so many people have push passes\* because they all live in the Hornsby area.** SIHS Student

My daughter left school at 3.15pm on Thursday afternoon and only managed to be at 4.40pm at home. We live in Hornsby. This includes 2 bus rides and a train. **For a 25 minute car drive, where is the incentive to use public transport and reduce traffic congestion?** - SIHS Parent

My children have not been able to participate in some extra curricular activities i.e .band, due to the lack of public transport options. **I have had to take time off work to drive my child to/from school activities due to a lack of transport options.** SIHS Parent

The bus from Gordon station to St Ives high school is regularly late or does not turn up. **The amount of buses in the afternoon is inadequate and my child is left standing, sometimes for an hr before being able to board a bus to Gordon station. The limited times this bus runs also impacts my child's options for participating in extracurricular activities. This is a weekly issue and my child is late to school at least two times per week, despite leaving home the same time every morning.** Waiting for a bus 40 mins over the scheduled bus time table, is unacceptable! This service is currently completely inadequate for the demand, to and from Gordon station to St Ives High.—SIHS Parent

We definitely need St Ives High School bus loop! There are lots of students that go to SIHS from Hornsby & beyond which requires extended travel time as there is no direct bus service to the school! There is huge traffic congestion in the morning & afternoon peak hours.

We are Masada parents and spend a truck load of time driving our kids around and having to pay for a private bus to school because the public bus system is so infrequent. **We are strong supporters of your campaign** The increase in the regularity of the 194 and 195 has been welcome but it is still skewed towards city commuters rather than school kids heading the other way. I also suspect that with more people working from home you may get support from this group too Thank you for your efforts - Masada College Carer

What are people saying? Verbatims from surveys

# Survey Feedback - Overcrowded Services (& COVID Concerns)

I have driven my son to and from school every day since Covid, **as I don't find the risk of being on public transport - particularly squashed on buses - acceptable.**

2020 SIHS Survey, Hornsby

Too many transfers, long journey, **over crowded train station and bus station, and over crowded train car and bus will take big chances for COVID 19 virus spread.**

2020 SIHS Survey, Hornsby

**Because of COVID and the over crowded buses and trains in peak times, I have to drive my students to and from school. this means that I have to take time off to travel to school and then travel back in the ever-growing traffic in the morning/afternoon.**

2020 SIHS Survey, Wahroonga

## Overcrowding & COVID Concerns

I have 1 child at St Ives High currently and 3 more to follow in future years. My child in Year 7 says current **buses to and from Gordon station are very crowded.** His ability to participate in run club and boot camp is impacted by the limited transport options early in the morning and the inability for parents to always drive him to school early.

2020 Northern Draw Petition, Hornsby

**Busses are PACKED 'body-to-body' with children from all year groups together, therefore completely COVID-unsafe.**

However, as long as there are only a few busses, **there is no alternative for kids to arrive home within an acceptable time frame.** Government rules regarding separation of students in year groups at schools is a worthless exercise as long as this continues to be accepted.

2020 SIHS Survey, Mt Ku-ring-gai

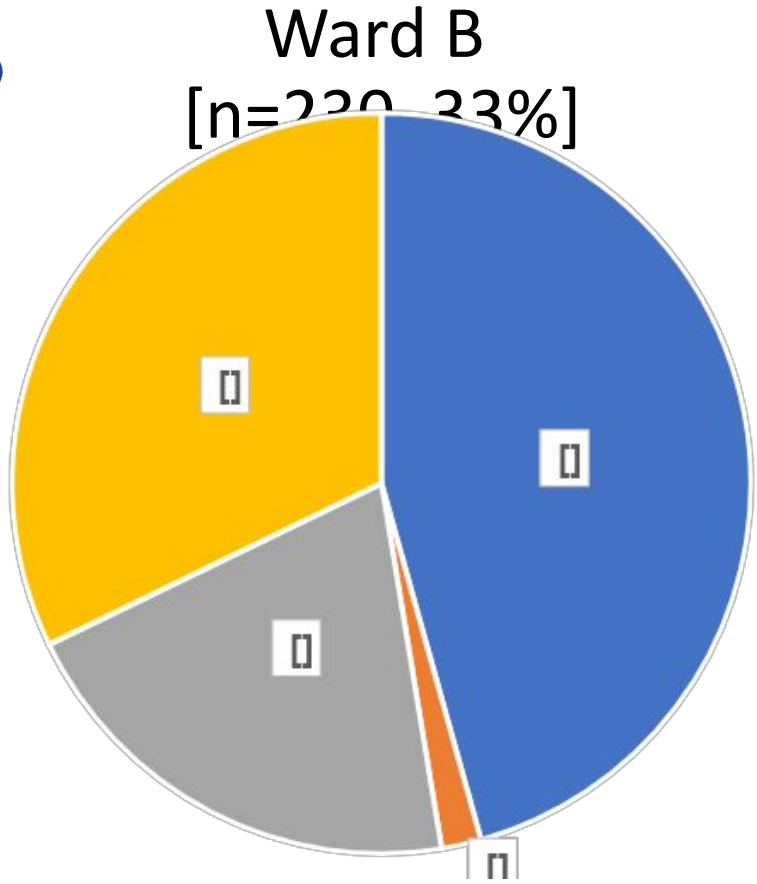
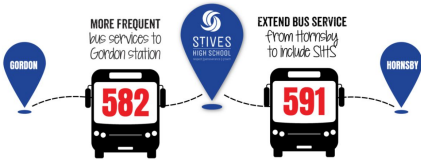
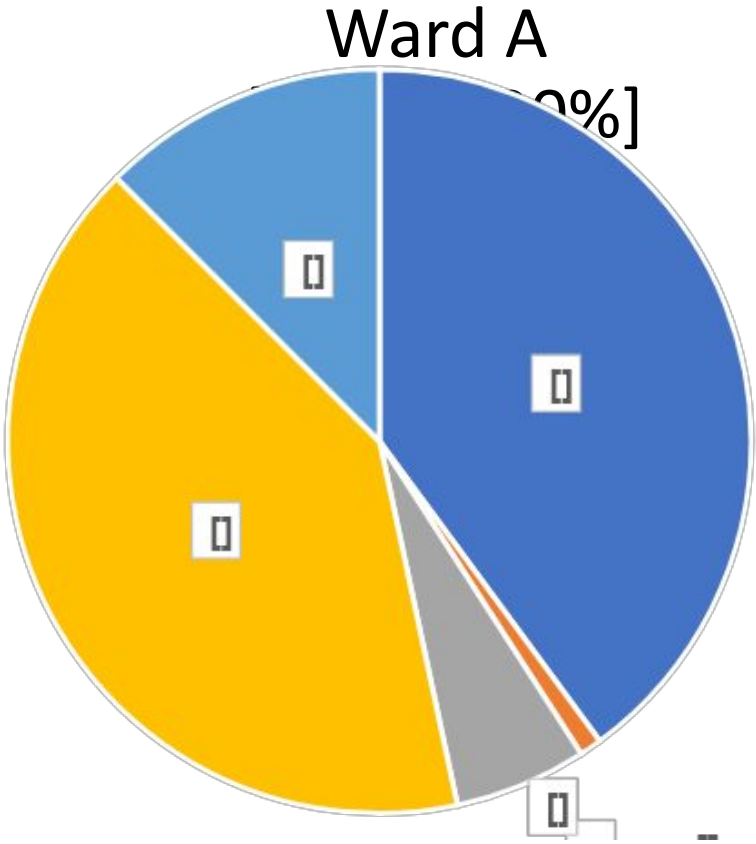
**It's impossible for children to follow social distancing rules in over crowded buses**

2020 SIHS Survey, Waitara

**Students cannot social distance on the buses between school and Gordon station as they have to pack on to the buses.**

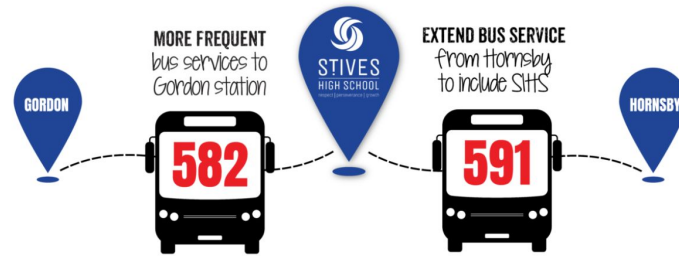
2020 SIHS Survey Mt Colah

# 2021, 591\_582 Bus Campaign Petition Responses Breakdown by Suburb of Residence [702 responses]

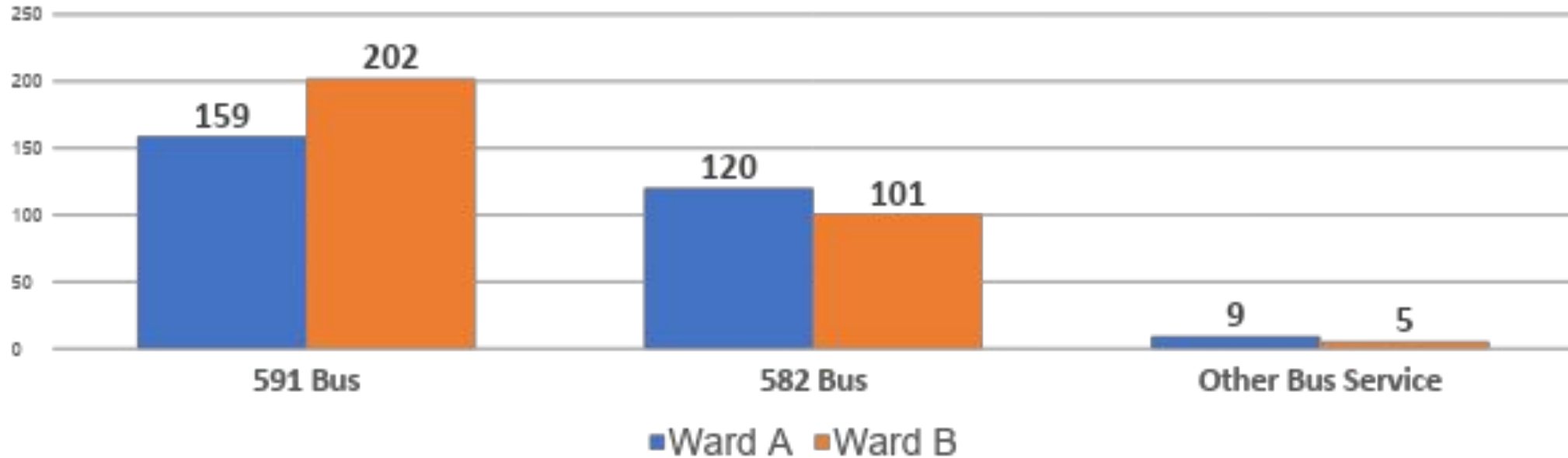




# 2021, 591\_582 Bus Campaign Petition Responses Ward A and Ward B (only)



Thinking about which suburb you live in, please tick the improved bus services that would be relevant to you when travelling to and from the Yarrabung Road Schools Precinct in St Ives



## 591\_582 Bus Campaign Survey 2021

The local community has demonstrated strong support for the aims of this campaign

### Ward A

Asquith, Berowra Heights, Hornsby Heights, Mt Colah, Mt Ku-ring-gai  
**208 Responses, 30% of total 702**

Top 3 Ward A reasons for driving to St Ives High:

1. **50%** [74] drop/collect student at bell time
2. **31%** [46] drop/collect student for extracurriculars
3. **5%** [8] drop/collect student for Senior Period Zero/Six

### Ward B

Hornsby, Normanhurst, Waitara  
**230 Responses, 33% of total of 702**

Top 3 Ward B reasons for driving to St Ives High:

1. **53%** [89] drop/collect student at bell time
2. **33%** [55] drop/collect student for extracurriculars
3. **8%** [14] drop/collect student for Senior Period Zero/Six

# Respondents Cared Enough to Provide Feedback for their State MP & Local Councillor

## Ward A

**42** participants also left feedback on transport issues for their MP/Cllr as well as signing the petition

## Ward B

**70** participants also left feedback on transport issues for their MP/Cllr as well as signing the petition

**Our requested changes to the 591 service would benefit up to 7 schools located along a route that includes a St Ives High loop:**

**The following schools are located on an extended 591 bus route:**

- Waitara Public School
- Hornsby Girls High
- Corpus Christi (St Ives)
- Masada College (St Ives)
- St Ives Public School
- St Ives High School
- Intensive English Centre (St Ives HS)

# Our requested changes to the 591 and 582 services would benefit the wider community too:

- **Parents** who would not have to drive their children in peak hour traffic to get to/from school, especially for before school activities
- **The Environment!** A significant reduction in the number of private vehicles being used to drive students to and from their high school.
- **The 2,000 plus patrons who attend activities on the St Ives High and St Ives Public School campuses** outside of regular bell times each week, including North Shore Basketball and Australian Girls' Choir.
- **Patrons of the planned St Ives High Indoor Community Sports Centre** (under assessment), hours 4-11 pm school days, 7 am – 11 pm weekends & school holidays.

More train services between Hornsby and Asquith would benefit the communities who live in suburbs where the local population is steadily increasing, like Asquith, Mount Colah and Mount Ku-ring-gai.

# What Next?

- We would like to hear your views based on the material we have sent and presented to you
- We would like a follow up meeting with Senior Council Staff to talk in more detail about our campaign
- We would appreciate any feedback from you (with the benefit of your years of experience in federal and local government) on how we can progress this further with our state government representatives and the Minister for Transport.

**Thank you for your time and consideration!**



"My children have not been able to participate in some extra curricular activities i.e .band. due to the lack of public transport."



"If we are investing in amazing infrastructure like the sports centre we need transport to match!"



"A bus loop from the St Ives shops to the schools precinct is the missing link."



"There is a need for public transport options between St Ives & Hornsby – the congestion on Killeaton & Burns roads is proof."

