

MPs irate at bus cuts

Traffic's too heavy, so the State Government has reduced northern services

Transport | Shaun Campbell

STATE Opposition MPs have accused the Government of neglecting the region after cuts to northern bus services.

Dysons Bus Service has reduced its services on three bus routes to combat an increase in traffic.

The 562 bus from Greensborough to Whittlesea has 53 fewer services a week, the Eltham to Preston 513 route has lost 10 trips, and three services have been cut from the 566 bus from Greensborough to Lalor.

Bundoora state Labor MP Colin



Bundoora MP Colin Brooks is concerned about reduced bus services.

N28DV706

Brooks said the cuts would impact on commuters using the services to travel to railway stations, schools, universities and shopping centres.

"This is the first time I can remember that there has been a reduction in bus services in this area," Mr Brooks said.

Yan Yean state Labor MP Danielle Green said the cuts showed the Government's "complete contempt" for northern commuters.

"The fact the absurd reason given for these cuts is heavy traffic on our roads merely highlights the need for the (Government) to . . . not completely abandon us," Ms Green said.

Dysons director Shane Dyson said the timetable, which came into effect on December 19, was

an interim response to make buses run on time.

He said the bus service did not want to overhaul the schedule when a bus review was expected later this year.

Transport Department spokeswoman Andrea Duckworth said several bus services in the vicinity of South Morang were expected to be audited when the suburb's railway station was completed in April.

Should the bus services be returned? Tell us what you think at heidelbergleader.com.au



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Dean Knape, Nan Caple and Chris Butler are part of the Heidelberg Sings choir and (below) the choir with conductor Shaun Islip.

Picture: PAULLOUGHANAN N29HB500

Giving voice to all with a song in their heart

A HEIDELBERG choir is giving singers of all abilities the chance to find their voice.

Heidelberg Sings, based at the Austin Hospital, is one of 13 choirs taking part in Creativity Australia's With One Voice program.

Surrey Hills resident Shaun Islip, who has conducted the choir since it began last year, said the main aim of With One Voice was social integration.



"What it does is to bring together people from very diverse backgrounds, and who haven't had the opportunity to try singing before," Mr Islip

says. "It breaks down a lot of social barriers and people find themselves very integrated."

Prospective members do not need to audition or have any singing experience.

Choir member Nan Caple had not sung since her school choir days and says she found the experience rewarding.

The East Ivanhoe resident, whose husband David is also a choir member, says the choir

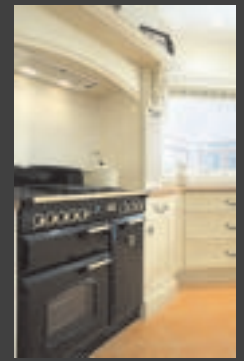
embodies people from all walks of life. The choir performs a variety of musical styles including classical, jazz, opera, gospel, soul and sing-a-long.

Heidelberg Sings meets from 5.30-6.45pm on Thursdays from February 2, at the Education Centre, Austin Hospital, 145 Studley Rd, Heidelberg (Main entrance, visitors lift to level 4).

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