

# Collier blasts party over rail cuts

By Murray Trembath

## ■ Seven stationmasters to be axed

A LABOR MP has broken ranks and blasted changes which will see at least seven railway stations in St George and Sutherland Shire lose stationmasters.

Barry Collier, MP for Miranda, says customer service will decline and passengers who fall ill will no longer have the assistance of station managers with first aid training.

CityRail revealed yesterday station manager positions would be axed at Arncliffe, Banksia, Carlton, Como, Kirrawee, Loftus and Woolooware.

A spokeswoman said decisions had still to be made about Bardwell Park, Beverly Hills,

Bexley North and Narwee. Gymea and Oatley stations, which were on the original 'hit-list,' will retain stationmasters.

The spokeswoman said stations left without stationmasters would be managed from a neighbouring station, and managers would visit them regularly and contact the staff daily.

Unions have agreed to the deal, which will also see more than 200 general station staff retrained for other jobs, including cleaning carriages, with big pay rises going to station-

masters who keep their jobs. Mr Collier said he had learnt Como station would be managed from Mortdale, while Kirrawee would be managed from Gymea.

"What happens if there is an accident or an urgent safety issue when there is no one with first aid training on hand?" he said.

"The station manager will have to come from Gymea or Mortdale to deal with [it]."

Mr Collier said he had contacted Transport Minister David Campbell and presented petitions with more than 3600 names.

"The changes will result in stations like Gymea being unstaffed from 7pm to 5.45am the next day, and where the only one person on duty in the morning peak is expected to manage Kirrawee station," he said.

"Kirrawee is losing its stationmaster after 17 years."

"Here we are, duplicating the Cronulla line, installing a lift and spending millions at Kirrawee, and RailCorp is getting rid of a well-known, well-liked and highly experienced station manager."

"We are encouraging more people to use Kirrawee Station, yet cutting the quality of customer service!"

"It really doesn't make sense."