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## Major staff cuts at inner west train stations

NEWS

LOCAL NEWS

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FOUR inner-west train stations - Dulwich Hill, Erskineville, Lewisham and Tempe - will lose their station masters under proposed changes leaked to the State Opposition last week.

Hundreds of ticket sellers and guards' jobs would be slashed to cut costs, despite fears about passenger safety and quality of service.

About 60 train stations across the network would become automated, forcing commuters to buy tickets at machines.

More than 300 frontline staff would also be stood down under a CityRail shake-up. Other workers would have their positions downgraded or be retrained in other roles such as carriage cleaners.

Community group Action for Public Transport (NSW) spokesman Jim Donovan said the proposed cuts were a serious concern.

"The government seems quite happy at throwing money on building roads but they are neglecting public transport," he said. "A lot of people would like to see (the staff) stay. I'd like to see better services and lines extended across the network. Lewisham is an example of where you can see 10 trains go by before you see one stop."

A spokesman for Marrickville State Labor MP Carmel Tebbutt said changes at train stations were still being reviewed, so it was too early to comment.

"The review aims to create better station staffing arrangements to match passenger movements," he said. "No jobs will be lost as part of the review."

Any changes to station staffing would not affect security, he said.

The leaked documents said senior managers would get pay rises. The moves have enraged the Rail Tram and Bus Union which has started a postcard campaign, calling on Premier Nathan Rees to reconsider.

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