

# TRANSCRIPT

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

### **Inquiry into the impact of road safety behaviours on vulnerable road users**

Shepparton—Wednesday 13 September 2023

#### **MEMBERS**

Alison Marchant—Chair

Kim O’Keeffe—Deputy Chair

Anthony Cianflone

Wayne Farnham

John Mullahy

Dylan Wight

Jess Wilson

#### **WITNESSES**

Kristine James, Teacher,

Narelle Freeman, Teacher,

Paula Muir, Parent, and

Virginia Campbell, Parent, Grahamvale Primary School; and

Daniel Hall, Parent,

Samantha Jefferis, Parent, and

Lauren Jefferis, Student, Mooroopna North Primary School.

**The CHAIR:** Welcome to this forum for the Legislative Assembly Economy and Infrastructure Committee's Inquiry into the impact of road safety behaviours on vulnerable road users. Thank you for your participation. It is welcome to help make recommendations to make our roads safer for everyone. We will try and run this pretty informally and just make it a bit of a chat today.

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I might introduce the Committee members and then we might ask you to introduce yourselves as well, where you are from and maybe a bit of background or history or your mode of transport or maybe your interest in coming today as well. That would be helpful. My name is Alison. I am the Member for Bellarine.

**Kim O'KEEFFE:** Hello, everyone. I am Kim, local Member. There are some familiar faces here so thank you so much for coming in today. We really appreciate it.

**John MULLAHY:** John Mullahy, Member for Glen Waverley.

**Anthony CIANFLONE:** I am Anthony Cianflone, Member for Pascoe Vale.

**Jess WILSON:** Jess Wilson, Member for Kew.

**The CHAIR:** We really do appreciate your time. We might just start at this end if that is okay. If you could just introduce yourself, and then if there is anything you would like to say, you can talk about some of the things you would like to share today.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** She has been taking notes. Quickly!

**The CHAIR:** No, you are all right. Take your time.

**Daniel HALL:** We can come back to you, Lauren.

**The CHAIR:** Keep going. It is all good.

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** Hello, my name is Lauren Jefferis. I am 12 years old, and I am in year 6. I mostly get to school by taking the bus, but sometimes I go by car. I get to and from the bus stop by walking.

**The CHAIR:** Excellent. Thank you, Lauren.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** Hi, I am Sam Jefferis. I have been involved with Lauren's school for nearly 15 years now, with younger children as well. I have a big interest in road safety and getting kids to school safe. With the floods last year it has proved a bit difficult for us, having to change our mode of transport by moving to a different area and things like that.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you.

**Daniel HALL:** I am Daniel Hall. I am a driver, a cyclist and a swimmer and a father of two children, so grade 1 and grade 4 at Mooroopna North Primary School as well, which is on—

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** Ardmona Road.

**Daniel HALL:** Ardmona Road. We were talking about that just before and then I forgot.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you.

**Virginia CAMPBELL:** I am Virginia Campbell. I am a parent of three children at Grahamvale Primary School: year 6, year 4 and year 1. So we have been travelling to Grahamvale Primary School for quite a number of years now by road. All of the children are transported by car, bar one family who is able to walk.

**Paula MUIR:** I am Paula Muir. I am actually an ex-parent of Grahamvale Primary School. I was there for about 13 years. Probably the last half of that I was on school council and was school council president when the precinct plan came out, which is adjacent to Grahamvale Primary School. We had a hearing here about how it would work, and there were a lot of traffic issues involved with that. And ironically, I went to Mooroopna North Primary School.

**Kristine JAMES:** Hi, I am Krissy James. I have been associated with Grahamvale Primary School for a bit over 30 years. I currently work there—have been for 20-odd. I have seen a lot of changes. My concern is the way the traffic is happening at the school. I could walk but choose not to because of the safety reasons, so I just do drive. That is where I am at.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you.

**Narelle FREEMAN:** I am Narelle Freeman. I am a Teacher at Grahamvale Primary School, currently acting assistant principal for this term. Part of that role is holding the stop/slow sign in our school car park every morning and every afternoon, so this term I have become acutely aware of the traffic that backs up through our car park and out onto the main road.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you. Kim, would you like to maybe ask a few questions? We will just start, and then if you think you need to jump in or add something, please do.

**Kim O'KEEFFE:** It is great. I know all your schools, so that is a good thing. I know the roads. I know the challenges. I know the things that have been happening in regard to raising some of those matters. So it is a great opportunity, that we can broaden this discussion, because I think this is exactly the forum. You live it every single day. You have that lived experience that you can actually share with this Committee and obviously with me more broadly as your local Member and my former years in council—so yes, lots and lots of history. I suppose the thing about today is just really clarifying the things that are making the students or you as parents feel unsafe, and I know that there are some matters at this table that will be discussed around that. So maybe highlight those really high-level things that you feel are immediate safety matters.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** I know at our school one of the most immediate safety matters is the speed at which vehicles travel past our school. It is not just cars; we get a lot of trucks and agricultural vehicles as well. We do have a little sign that says, 'School ahead, slow to 60.' I purposefully went that way the other day just so I could see what is there, and really if you blink, you will miss it. There are no flashing lights. The school sort of just pops up out of nowhere as well. If it is not school pick-up or drop-off time or there is no bus there, you hardly recognise that there is a school there. I know even a lot of community members in Mooroopna and Shepparton do not realise that there is a school out there as well. And it is really not just the school times. At our school we have a great bush environment, and we have kinders utilising our school area for bush kinder as well. And we like to be a community-friendly school. We are open. You can use the bike tracks and walking tracks that we have in the school and the orienteering area and whatnot out of school times. So the kinders coming in and getting the kids on and off the bus is outside the school zone times, and the speeding traffic—I just hate to think what could happen, honestly. Our school zone is 60, which is quite fast, and we are lucky if they slow down to 60.

**Kim O'KEEFFE:** At school times does it change to 40?

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** No. That is at the school times it is 60.

**Kim O'KEEFFE:** That has been the issue?

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** It is just crazy. It is 100 the other times.

**Paula MUIR:** Samantha, we took about 15 years to get our 40 speed limit, yes.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** Yes.

**Paula MUIR:** So we had to lobby for a long time.

**Kim O'KEEFFE:** It has just been ongoing, yes.

**Daniel HALL:** But outside those peak hours in the morning it is still 100 k's.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** One hundred k's past the school.

**Daniel HALL:** So you have got trucks coming past, and cars, at 100 k's an hour, and that is when the bush kinder kids are being picked up—

**Kim O'KEEFFE:** Because they are not school time.

**Daniel HALL:** because they do not stay till 3, exactly. So you have got little kids, yes.

**Kim O'KEEFFE:** And Grahamvale—so what are the main issues in regard to safety?

**Paula MUIR:** Well, it is the car parks.

**Narelle FREEMAN:** Would you like a picture?

**Paula MUIR:** Yes, we have got a couple of pictures.

**Virginia CAMPBELL:** Perhaps what you need to say is that the school is on a major transport route also. So it is on a major route.

**Paula MUIR:** Yes. A lot of trucks are coming along, and there is an S-bend just before that you have to remember as well. So if you are turning into the school, if you are heading north, if you are turning left in to pick up your kids, there is no turning lane, so you can have it backed up potentially eight or 10 cars easily.

**Narelle FREEMAN:** Yes, easily.

**Paula MUIR:** And if you are coming the other way—

**Narelle FREEMAN:** That one is zoomed out a bit more—sorry, Paula. You can see the S-bend more clearly.

**Anthony CIANFLONE:** Oh, sorry. Okay, yes.

**Kristine JAMES:** Particularly if there is a truck, it cannot slow down.

**Paula MUIR:** So if you are another parent turning here and a truck comes along—I have personally been in the position where I have been sitting ready to turn into the school and a truck is coming straight at me and I know he is going to swerve—it is quite harrowing. So a turning lane is obviously the thing that would fix that very quickly.

**Virginia CAMPBELL:** It should be noted that the car park does not have capacity for all of the parents that need to attend at pick-up time. During COVID there were some staged pick-up times so that only half of the student population were leaving in a 10-minute period, but we have jumped back to one single pick-up time because otherwise it meant that half the children were missing 10 or 15 minutes of their school day. And there just is not enough room for all the staff, so there are also vehicles that are parking on the roadside, backing in against the car park and then further up the road parallel parked. It is extremely dangerous.

**Kim O'KEEFFE:** And that road is 100, is that right?

**Virginia CAMPBELL:** No, it is not. It is 60 and 40 during school times. And I suppose there is mixed compliance with the speed limit, would you say? And the police have patrolled from time to time too, so that helps.

**Virginia CAMPBELL:** It is not so much the speed, but it is just that—

**Kristine JAMES:** It is so congested.

**Virginia CAMPBELL:** there are trucks travelling in both directions and vehicles lining up, particularly to turn right. There is a turning lane, but it means that there are three rows of vehicles or traffic on a relatively narrow road, so there is just a huge congestion of vehicles on the road.

**Paula MUIR:** And Karen Mellington was saying that there are constant complaints from people on the roads calling.

**Kristine JAMES:** Yes, we often get calls.

**Paula MUIR:** Especially since the train depot is being built as well.

**Kristine JAMES:** Yes, that is congesting it more at the moment, which is short term, but yes, that is causing a lot of issues.

**Kim O'KEEFFE:** It has been raised over the years with council—

**Paula MUIR:** Yes.

**Kim O'KEEFFE:** and I am sure at some point you have written to the ministers. I know this has been ongoing.

**Kristine JAMES:** Yes.

**Kim O'KEEFFE:** So yes, we obviously have to step it up, just come back to it.

**Paula MUIR:** Look, when the precinct is built, the entrance will be from the other side. So it is not a 20-year problem, but for the next, say, 10 to 15, until all of that is done, you have got quite a dangerous situation.

**Virginia CAMPBELL:** To explain what a precinct plan is, it is a plan for the future development of north-east Shepparton, which includes the school and the land to the west towards the town. We will allow for housing development to go into what is currently orchard and cropping land and that will come from Verney Road, which is a road closer to the town, into the back of the school. So the roads that are part of that housing development are planned—

**Paula MUIR:** All of this will be developed.

**Virginia CAMPBELL:** to be constructed so that there will be roads coming into the back of the school. There is a parcel of land here that has been earmarked in the planning scheme for public education. As the school council, we wrote to the Department of Education last year to ask them to consider compulsorily acquiring that land so that the school can start to plan for an entrance at the back onto those residential roads, which obviously will be so much safer. The other point to make is the school has no bus service, and I believe that is because there is no space for a bus to park and off-load children, so if we have that land acquired then we can plan for bus access.

**Jess WILSON:** Which will take cars off the road as well.

**Virginia CAMPBELL:** Exactly. As I said, the entire school population of 400 children is transported by car, other than, I think it is, one child that is able to walk basically. Just lives up the road.

**Paula MUIR:** But you would not walk on it.

**Virginia CAMPBELL:** She does. She walks down here.

**Paula MUIR:** The more the precinct plan is built, the more people will want to come. They estimated another 400 children. How many are there now—400?

**Narelle FREEMAN:** 380.

**Paula MUIR:** 380. So it is going to double in size, which is why we have got double the land to come. Along with Virginia and the current school council asking, we asked four or five years ago for them to acquire it and they said, 'We understand that you need it, but no,' at the time. So we are having to put some pressure on

the education department. There is a covenant that says that if it is not taken up when the precinct hits us, then they can sell it to somebody else. They need to buy it before the precinct plan gets close to the school.

**Jess WILSON:** How big is the piece of land?

**Paula MUIR:** Look, it is the same—

**Virginia CAMPBELL:** No, it is not the same size as the existing parcel. I think it might be 2.5 hectares.

**Paula MUIR:** It was supposed to be 3.5.

**Kristine JAMES:** I thought it was supposed to be 3 acres or something.

**Paula MUIR:** Yes.

**Kristine JAMES:** About 3 acres.

**Paula MUIR:** There is no oval out there either, so they would need an oval as well probably as a part of that.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you. John.

**John MULLAHY:** I think you are all going to say no, but you do not have any school crossings, do you?

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** No.

**John MULLAHY:** You have got one student that walks, so—

**Narelle FREEMAN:** It is in our own car park, only in our school car park.

**Kristine JAMES:** Not on the road.

**John MULLAHY:** All right. I was going to ask how state and local governments could improve pedestrian crossings for your school.

**Paula MUIR:** If you cross the road here, you are on the train tracks.

**John MULLAHY:** With the future precinct planning, will there be a crossing that would be associated with it?

**Paula MUIR:** The plans have not been done yet because we are not that far along. But there are supposed to be bus lanes and all sorts of traffic things into what will be the introduction of the school on the other side.

**John MULLAHY:** I imagine with all the housing that will go behind it that at some point you will need some kind of crossing there.

**Paula MUIR:** It is very residential, yes.

**John MULLAHY:** And yourselves at Mooroopna—

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** No, we are completely rural. There are no students that could walk to school or ride to school.

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** It is in farmland.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** So we have probably about eight car parks out the front of the school and a bus park. Our school funds the bus privately to get students to and from school. That is about all we have.

**John MULLAHY:** Okay. All right.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** We have I think about 28 students at the moment.

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** No, it is like 32.

**Daniel HALL:** The only reason that they would go across the road is to collect the mail or put the rubbish out, which is on the other side.

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** It is normally a senior's job or an adult's job.

**Daniel HALL:** But, yes, the car park itself is actually on the same side of the school but right on the road.

**The CHAIR:** Jess.

**Jess WILSON:** Thanks very much, Chair. I think we spoke a little bit about maybe how the pandemic assisted perhaps in terms of pick-up times and all that sort of shifting of schedules. Have you seen, though, that the pandemic has actually changed road behaviour? Do you think that road behaviour is worse post the pandemic given that people were off the roads for a few years. There was far less traffic and now people are back on the roads. We have heard I think consistently throughout these hearings that driver aggression has particularly changed over that time. I am keen to get your thoughts from the different schools' perspectives on that.

**Kristine JAMES:** I have not noticed that.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** Well, I noticed with us, I have had to move from Mooroopna to Shepparton, so I travel and commute through the town centre and everything. The driver aggression is almost off the charts. I try to give more space to people. They seem to be more rushed. Things have to get done. They have got the opportunity to do it, so they are going to go do it. If you get in their way, they are not happy about it.

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** People have also been driving really, really bad.

**The CHAIR:** Do you think their skills are not as good anymore? Has that changed?

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** Like swerving and all that.

**Narelle FREEMAN:** And busier roads, I think.

**The CHAIR:** More cars on the road.

**Narelle FREEMAN:** Just cars, the quantity, yes.

**Jess WILSON:** Which probably results in different behaviour.

**Kristine JAMES:** I would not say it is more aggressive. It is only when they get a bit agitated in the car park when they cannot get a park, but—

**Narelle FREEMAN:** And the congestion—

**Kristine JAMES:** It is the congestion getting in.

**Narelle FREEMAN:** having sat backed up on the main road, then to finally get into the car park and there not being enough parks available and if they have to go and come back in, which sometimes is what has to happen, and it is—

**Jess WILSON:** Do you do a—what is it called—kiss and drop?

**Kristine JAMES:** Yes, in the morning.

**Narelle FREEMAN:** Yes, drop and go. We do run that, and also cars can pull in and pick up.

**Jess WILSON:** Yes, but then you have got kids everywhere. You have got cars everywhere.

**Narelle FREEMAN:** Yes, and that is for some cars that can.

**Kristine JAMES:** But we cannot run that in the afternoon, because just logistically we do not have the staff to man that.

**Virginia CAMPBELL:** It did run during the pandemic. There was pick-up as a drive-by, but it involved a huge amount of coordination by the staff. One staff member at the beginning of the car park identifying which parent was driving in, on the phone to the staff who were marshalling the children. It was not feasible to continue that.

**Narelle FREEMAN:** It was also really stressful for the staff and the students to be sitting there having to listen for their name to be called and be ready to go. We are at the end of a day at school. It was a lot to ask of the students to be sitting and listening and being ready like little soldiers ready to march off to their car.

**Paula MUIR:** And there is not really an option to make the car park bigger at this point. I think that particular piece of land is owned by Goulburn Valley Water, so they let us use it as a car park.

**Kristine JAMES:** It used to be a channel.

**Paula MUIR:** Yes, it used to be a channel. So it is not like you can just open up some of the garden or something like that at this point. Also, when you are obviously planning for what is about to come, that makes it, sort of, this is what we have got.

**The CHAIR:** Anthony.

**Anthony CIANFLONE:** Thanks, Chair, and thank you all for appearing. I really appreciate it, not just as a Committee member but as a parent of two young daughters who are in primary school down in Melbourne. What has really struck me and I think what is really interesting with the evidence you are giving, there is a lot of contrast there with what we have received in terms of the inner city and the suburban views of parents and schools, because for example, we make a big deal of and we have some key events like Ride2School Day and walk to school day that in my community and my suburbs of Pascoe Vale and Brunswick West are big events for most schools, because we are fortunate enough to be able to do that. Unfortunately, we are hearing that you have a lot more challenges in that respect to achieve even that basic access, which is very much acknowledged, and we hear you.

Also, the health and wellbeing benefits too of what is offered at Mooroopna North Primary School. Of course, it would be very consistent to have those opportunities to walk and ride, because those benefits do not just start when you go into the school gate. They start before you get to the school gate to create that positive learning environment for children with those particular needs. So in that respect, I guess, what can this Committee do to help encourage investment and measures and policies that are geared towards getting us to where we need to be, where regional areas have the same fair access to walk or ride to school, eventually, as inner-city communities do? How can we stage it in a way that is meaningful and positive?

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** Well, out at Mooroopna North they have actually implemented a bike path through the school, and we have a local community group, Kiwanis, come out. They work with the kids on learning how to service the bikes and look after them and ride them.

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** We also have a pretty big yard, so we can run around and play a lot of tag, and we do lots of PE. We do PE twice a week.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** Yes, so they are free to use the bikes to ride around the school and that during recess and lunch.

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** We are only allowed to do it if people are treating them with respect. Lately they have not.

**Paula MUIR:** I think Grahamvale is probably more about keeping people safe on the road until we can get to a position like you where they are coming through a suburban area to get to the school, because they will be doing all those things. They will walk and ride once the school entrance is on the other side, so we have just got to keep them safe on this side.

**Kristine JAMES:** It is just a huge safety—

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** We take the opportunity now where Lauren, being 12, can walk home from her new bus stop, which is actually quite a walk—it is about a 40-minute walk home. So she can do that now. Getting to

school, I do not think she would make the bus stop on time. But there are a few families that do walk to their local bus stop for the bus to pick them up and things like that.

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** I have a couple of friends who walk to and from the bus stop. It is like a 50-minute walk. They live in the near north of Mooroopna as well. They walk down to the little lake in Mooroopna. They walk through a lot of paddocks, but they do encounter lots of birds that do swoop them and lots of other stuff.

**The CHAIR:** And they would be walking on dirt roads as well?

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** Yes.

**The CHAIR:** Do they feel safe, do you think, walking on those roads?

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** No, but they are getting another road put in through where they walk, so they can walk on the pavement near it, if there is pavement.

**The CHAIR:** I can imagine pretty heavy trucks or other things on those dirt roads. Can I just ask a question about—not in school time but as parents or as community members—just safety on our roads: generally do your kids like to ride during the weekend? Are you walking around town? How do you feel safe in your own community? Can you maybe just share those experiences and whether we can improve or do better?

**Paula MUIR:** I generally feel safe where I am. I should probably say, I was listening to the kids from the superschool that were here before. I was always supportive of the superschool, but I live on the street near it, and I thought, ‘What is going to happen to Hawdon Street? We’ll have to avoid it at all costs’—and it has actually been very good, I have to say. You do not necessarily choose to go there at school time, but there are times when I have, and it has been no real issue and I have never felt like any of the kids are in danger or any of those sorts of things. So I have been quite surprised, because I thought there was going to be a huge traffic issue. But just listening to them was quite interesting, and I thought, ‘Well, I have no issue driving down there generally.’ You might be a little bit slower at times, but nothing like I thought it was going to be when they first—

**Kim O’KEEFFE:** I think that is a high majority of the community’s response too. I think everyone was panicking at the start. But traffic just moves, and yes, it is not a huge area.

**Paula MUIR:** Panicking, yes. You just did not see how it was going to happen, but maybe because there is so much bussing, perhaps. But the kids are really good, I have thought, generally speaking.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** We have moved from Mooroopna into Shepparton, and in the community we are in now Lauren moves around our neighbourhood quite safely, walking and riding her bike, whereas where we were in Mooroopna before I could barely let her outside the front gate. So we have got a bit more freedom there. Going to school can be a bit of a problem, dodging all the potholes on Echuca Road—there are quite a few patches that are quite horrific at the moment. If I am going out to school, I have even started going the other way, like right all the way out Midland Highway and up Ardmona Road, just to avoid the potholes, because they are quite scary and dangerous. I did note on my way to Violet Town the other day there was a little patch of road that had two little potholes and they had traffic lights manning those two potholes, and I was like: is this a bit excessive, considering we have got some major full-road potholes going on in Mooroopna and north of Mooroopna?

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** Especially when you turn in the car, your car would normally hit a really big one.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** Yes, on the turn into her school we do not have a turning lane, so coming off Echuca Road into her school we are going, you know, 100 k’s and we have just got to slow down and avoid the potholes on the side of the road and get around the corner before we get cleaned up by cars.

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** Yes, and with that topic, it is a bit hard to cross the road in case there is an evacuation, because there are cars and trucks going like 100 per hour. So if the school was on fire, it would be a bit hard to leave the property to get on to the other side where we are allowed to go. There is a patch of farm, Horses for Hope, and they know us from the community, and they let us go onto their land because we have helped them and they have helped us.

**Paula MUIR:** I suspect everyone you speak to today could say potholes.

**Kristine JAMES:** Yes, it is huge.

**The CHAIR:** One thing that has not been raised today is e-scooters. Are they—

**Paula MUIR:** They are not very big here.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** Not overly.

**The CHAIR:** Not overly?

**Paula MUIR:** It feels like we saw a few for a while. Kids are not that keen around here.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** We saw some the other day, and Lauren pointed, ‘Mum, none of those are wearing helmets.’ They were, like, two people on a scooter.

**Paula MUIR:** As a driver they scare you.

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** They were going on the road. One was going with traffic and one was going against it, going the same way. There were, like, two on each side—one going where the cars are going at it, and not even trying to go on the side of the road, where it is a bit safer.

**Paula MUIR:** Perhaps metropolitan traffic might be a little bit slower and little bit easier to use it in.

**The CHAIR:** There just seemed to be a bit of an awareness also of the rules around e-scooters and how old you can be.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** There is not really much going on. It is just good to see them outside really, moving.

**The CHAIR:** Is there anything else you would like to raise that you do not think we have covered—just while I have you all, if there is something that we are missing.

**Paula MUIR:** I do not think so.

**Kim O’KEEFFE:** I was just going to raise something while we are looking for questions. My perception is this is a common thread across most of our rural schools—that we have outgrown the road network that we have, so it is quite primitive. It is really about keeping up with the times. That is probably just a comment that I am sure you would probably all agree with—that we have basically had these schools that started off in a very quiet region, and now we have grown, we have developed and we have become a major regional city and a transport hub. Most of our rural schools are feeling exactly like you are—unsafe with the traffic and the management, just having to deal with kids and parents trying to drop off. It is very consistent with what I am hearing.

**Daniel HALL:** Verney Road has increased capacity.

**Kim O’KEEFFE:** Verney Road—yes, they are relocating across.

**Paula MUIR:** And trucks—I think the same issue would be at Mooroopna North. There are just more trucks on those two particular roads we are talking about.

**The CHAIR:** John, do you have a question?

**John MULLAHY:** Yes. Obviously on your way to and from school you are educating your kids with regard to how things probably should not be done, but we are just wondering what kinds of road safety education programs are offered at the schools. Are there any?

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** There are none.

**The CHAIR:** None?

**Narelle FREEMAN:** What did we did talk about yesterday?

**Daniel HALL:** Probably parents.

**Narelle FREEMAN:** We are currently just relying on staff members to be responsible for supervising and operating the crossings and the car parks. We have got our walkways in those car parks really clearly marked.

**Kristine JAMES:** We really emphasise to walk on the right.

**The CHAIR:** Do you have police coming to school to talk to the kids about safety? Do you have any of those types of programs?

**John MULLAHY:** Road safety or bike safety?

**Kristine JAMES:** Not in recent years.

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** No, we only have safety around angry dogs, angry animals and all that.

**Virginia CAMPBELL:** I know the police visited to talk about cybersecurity, but I am not aware of road traffic.

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** We do snake safety because we own bushland and we have a bunch of snakes come through.

**Paula MUIR:** The newsletter also at Graham has always been used for safety to tell you how to use the car park correctly.

**Kristine JAMES:** Yes, that is right.

**Paula MUIR:** I was there for 13 years and I read that a lot.

**Kristine JAMES:** We are always putting that direct message out.

**Narelle FREEMAN:** Which is directed at parents, and I think because our students can only get to school by families dropping them off and picking them up in cars, because they cannot ride or walk to school and there are no bike paths, that has not been a priority.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** Since my kids have been going to school—my son is now 24—I am just trying to think the last time they did road safety at school. I honestly cannot recall, and it is over two different schools—one in town and Mooroopna North as well.

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** I cannot recall any of that since I was, like, in prep.

**John MULLAHY:** You said prep?

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** Yes.

**John MULLAHY:** So you did something in prep?

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** No.

**John MULLAHY:** No?

**Lauren JEFFERIS:** I have just been at that school since prep.

**Paula MUIR:** It was DECA probably. But it does not exist anymore.

**Kristine JAMES:** We used to go there every year and do the safety program.

**Samantha JEFFERIS:** I guess it would be a bit concerning for those families who are at our school, are just relying on the bus to get to and from school and do not have those informal opportunities to learn about road usage, road safety and things like that.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you so much for your time, all of you, today. We really appreciate it. It gives us a really broad perspective on some of the issues that you are facing. So thank you very much for your time, and it is much appreciated.

**Witnesses withdrew.**