



School bus inquiry looks at ways to get rural and regional Victoria moving

Expanded use of school buses in rural and regional Victoria is the focus of a new public inquiry which is seeking community input.

The Legislative Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee is considering whether the wider public should have access to school buses, so they have more opportunity to travel.

"This inquiry will look at the transport disadvantages experienced by rural and regional Victorians, particularly youth, the elderly and low-income households," Committee Chair Enver Erdogan said.

"We would like to hear from as many people as possible across our state so we can get a true picture of the transport limitations faced by rural and regional Victorians," he said.

"Their experiences will be important as we seek to understand how school buses could be used to get more people connected socially and economically."

The Committee will analyse evidence from other jurisdictions, locally and overseas, showing the impact of expanding the school bus system.

Mr Erdogan is encouraging parents to have their say as the inquiry considers any existing or potential barriers to allowing public access to the school bus network.

"Input from parents will help guide this inquiry, particularly in relation to important issues such as child safety," he said.

The inquiry will also look at the cost of extending mainstream school buses to the general public and how a fare system would work.

Once submissions have been received public hearings will be held to hear from witnesses and gauge the views and experiences of people in rural and regional communities.

The inquiry is due to hand down a final report before the end of the year.

To make a submission visit the Committee's [website](#).