



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA  
Economy and Infrastructure Standing Committee – Legislative Council

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **School buses inquiry starts public hearings**

Use of school buses in rural and regional Victoria is the focus of a parliamentary inquiry which is set to hold its first public hearing on Tuesday (27 July).

The Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee will hear from several key organisations and individuals from 9:30 am via Zoom.

Non-government, social services provider Mallee Family Care CEO Teresa Jayet will be followed by representatives from the Country Education Partnership, which speaks on behalf of rural and remote education communities in Victoria.

“This inquiry will be considering whether the school bus program should be widened to make it easier for the general public to access in regional Victoria, where public transport is less available,” Committee Chair Enver Erdogan said.

“We recognise there is significant transport disadvantage in some communities in regional Victoria. This is particularly the case amongst young people, the elderly and low-income households, who may not have access to a private vehicle.

“We know the school bus program has helped generations of regional Victorians to access a first-class education and we want to examine this issue carefully to ensure the program continues its success.”

Guided by the [terms of reference](#), the Committee will look at the potential impacts of expanding the school bus network and child safety.

School bus operator Graeme Sandlant, Professor Carolyn Unsworth and the City of Ballarat will also provide evidence on Tuesday.

The opening hearing will be [live broadcast](#) and the [full schedule](#) is available on the [Committee’s website](#).

The inquiry has received 100 [public submissions](#) and is due to table a final report to Parliament by November 30.

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