

Inquiry into the Use of School Buses in Rural and Regional Victoria

Ms Sherrin Caird

Organisation Name:
Your position or role:

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

Hello,

Bacchus Marsh badly needs a bus service to Melton and back to Bacchus Marsh.

The people of both towns have been waiting for years and a service to both towns is highly wanted from the people in these two communities.

This would free up congestion on country trains. The buses rarely meet the trains in both towns and although both towns are only around 10 minutes apart by car, to travel there using public transport can sometimes take hours.

Those in most need of such a bus service are the elderly and the disabled, both whom are unable to drive a car.

Bacchus Marsh is lacking many specialised health services and equipment, so those who are unwell are forced to travel to Melton by train. Because the buses often do not meet the train this makes people late for their appointments and raises much stress and anxiety and yet it does not have to be this way.

I know as I have been in this situation myself a few times, and I have seen others going through this too. People battling health problems definitely do not need this extra stress, as it also impacts health.

Because Melton has a lot of buses it can be very confusing and time consuming working out which bus gets to Melton Health first, as the bus drivers often talk in broken English and can be difficult to understand.

Most are aware of the extreme traffic chaos in Grant St Bacchus Marsh and this too could be eased by a bus service from Bacchus Marsh town/Bacchus Marsh Village to Melton city/Woodgrove as Melton health is very close to Woodgrove. Some of the traffic on Grant St are travelling to and from Bacchus Marsh rail station, some are travelling to the highway to go to Melton, some are travelling to Melton to pick up school children and some are travelling to Bacchus Marsh from Melton or going to Bacchus Marsh hospital in Grant St. With a bus service between both towns a lot of traffic on Grant St will be somewhat eased and would certainly help!

It would give commuters the benefit of affordability and a quick way of getting to and from both towns, this would no doubt encourage a few drivers to leave their cars at home.

There are also school children who would also make use of such a service to travel to school and back home.

There are many other Victorian towns/cities that have regular bus service that run to nearby towns and back, so I see no good reason why Bacchus Marsh and Melton does not have one.

Keeping in mind that Melton has several taxi companies, however if you call for a cab from Bacchus Marsh it can take up to two hours to arrive as they serve all those in Melton first before driving into Bacchus Marsh from Melton and the fare to go to Melton will be around \$25-\$30 which is a very costly one-way ride.

Please, I beg of you, we need a affordable, regular bus service between both towns, servicing for both morning and afternoon hours.

There are many reasons to include a service like this, the most important reason being the health of our elderly and disabled, those who most depend on public transport.

Thank you for taking the time to read my suggestion.

Yours Respectfully,
Sherrin Caird.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Sherrin Caird