

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

**Organisation Name:**  
**Your position or role:**

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

I fully understand and appreciate the intent behind using public transport infrastructure more efficiently in rural areas. However, in order for this to be done in a manner that provides safety and security for children/students traveling to and from school - in some cases, over an hour from home - some type of on-bus security needs to be considered. City children/teenagers often catch trains/trams with other community members however there are usually many adults present providing passive surveillance and supervision. Public transport is not embraced in rural areas as services are limited and are not viewed as the convenient option. As a result, it is often the disadvantaged and vulnerable who require the use of public transport. Catching public transport with several intimidating teenagers might prove overwhelming for many. Likewise, limited numbers of unknown adults travelling with young children is not an ideal situation. Further, school buses in country/remote areas provide a sort of security in that there are minimal stops between home and school. Increasing the number of users and services would increase the number of stops and would provide children with opportunity to leave the bus before their designated destination. Further, increasing the number of services would serve to increase the number of stops and this would subsequently increase the travel time. For some students, the travel time is already lengthy and this could prove unsustainable for students and families alike.

If school buses were to be shared with the general public I fear that many families would remove their children from these buses altogether, creating additional vehicle movements around school areas and increasing general traffic congestion.

More public transport options are definitely needed in country areas but tacking them onto school runs is not necessarily the answer. I see no major issue with utilising school buses for the general public between the hours of 9 and 3. This potentially already occurs.

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:**  
**File2:**  
**File3:**

**Signature:**