

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

Mr Terry Cooney

Organisation Name:Our Lady of the Way

Your position or role: Principal

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

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Signature:

Terry Cooney

My name is Terry Cooney and I am the Principal of Our Lady of the Way Catholic Primary School in Wallan East. We are a new school only being on site at Wallan since May of 2019.

Our current enrolment is 392 children from 291 families, with 8 of our 16 class groups being Foundation and Year 1. We are projected to be in excess of 600 students in 4 years.

We are situated in the Newbridge Estate but our catchment encompasses the southern part of the Mitchell Shire. This means that a number of our families travel to school by car as there is no available Bus Service for them to use. This causes enormous congestion at drop off and pick up times within the estate and the surrounding roads.

I have spoken with Seymour Coaches as they have the PTV contract in the area, about the possibility of developing a bus service for the school utilizing the Myki System. This is not an option at present as the bus route does not pass by the school. There is the possibility that it could happen but not until PTV approval.

I do feel that a bus service would alleviate, to a degree, the number of cars in the immediate vicinity of the school in the mornings and afternoons.

I have been working with members of the Mitchell Shire, to develop a Traffic Management Plan that would provide a safer environment for our community, however, the changes needed do not fit into the current budget for the Shire, so it will be at least 12 months before some safer infrastructure can be put in place.

I do believe there is some urgency required to solve this continually developing issue as a safe environment for the community is vital

Kind regards

Terry Cooney

Principal