

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

Mr Brendan Paterson

Organisation Name:
Your position or role:

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

I support the use of school buses for public transport purposes, provided there is adequate protection of student passengers from members of the general public who may have ulterior motives (paedophiles etc).

How will students be protected from 'other' passengers on said buses? Will there be any form of identification required, a formal booking process, segregated seating.

My town of Euroa (3000 people, 150 kms north of Melbourne) has a railway line / station and 4 larger regional centres (Seymour, Shepparton, Benalla and Wangaratta) all within a 45-minute drive: for those lucky enough or well-off enough or just plain old enough to be able to drive.

All 4 regional centres offer access to one / many medical facilities, TAFE, university, RTO learning organisations and employment and entertainment opportunities not available in Euroa. The existing railway tables are so poorly offered / scheduled that they make using them for work / TAFE / university impractical. In effect, if you can't drive, these services may just as well not exist.

And whatever - very limited - taxi services that are available are a \$200 round trip.

The lack of public transport is a huge impediment to education, work and social engagement in Euroa and surrounding areas.

I support the possibility of opening up school buses to general public use - provided that the safety of students can be assured.

And, of course, I see no reason why 'school buses' shouldn't be used more widely during other parts of the day when they are not carrying students to and from school.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:
File2:
File3:

Signature:
Brendan Paterson