

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

Mr Calum Johnston

Organisation Name:
Your position or role:

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

I find it deeply concerning that there might be a possibility for regional school buses to carry non school children. Such a bus service would immediately cease being a school service and become a public transport service. The entire benefit of a school service, as distinct from public transport, would be immediately lost. As a regional constituent with school aged children and who also grew up using school buses right through my own schooling years, I strongly urge the committee to remember the basics. A school bus service is to get school children to school in a safe and secure manner, the driver must have police checks and protocols in place. Opening the service exposes our school children to safety issues of life changing, life destroying consequences. The risks of sexual grooming and drug grooming, to name just two which have fallen under scrutiny in recent years, is unacceptable. Remember, school buses frequently collect students from their driveway but also remote and unsecure roadsides away from any safety monitoring and frequently even without phone reception. Further, regional school children may spend an hour or more on the school bus each way, then be left in an isolated and unsupervised location, this is a time of vulnerability, our children deserve a safe environment in which they can relax, finish school work and be a child, not be on guard in an exposed public setting in remote locations. The risks involved here stretch well beyond the time spent on the bus. Our children deserve safety.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:
File2:
File3:

Signature:
Calum Johnston