

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

Mr Scott Field

Organisation Name:
Your position or role:

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

To Whom it may Concern,

We presently have two children attending St Augustines College in Kyabram, which is 25 minutes away from where we live in Tatura. Our third will hopefully start year 7 next year. Tatura is a fast-growing community, which sadly lacks its own high school.

Our children travel on the public V/line bus each morning and afternoon. The bus leaves Tatura at 7:40am from one designated bus stop in the middle of Tatura and arrives at the Kyabram bus interchange at 8:10am. The children then have a 10 minute walk each way, regardless of weather conditions. We encourage our children to stay in groups for their safety, as they are unsupervised. They arrive at school roughly 30 minutes before school starts.

The bus stop is not supervised and there has been trouble between other students from different schools using this bus service.

The morning service is thankfully reserved, however we are required to pre-purchase bus tickets each day, week etc at a substantial cost to us. The afternoon service is not reserved and there have been instances over the years where students have been left stranded (if the bus is full) in Kyabram and parents have had to leave work to pick them up or wait for up to an hour for a taxi.

Being a public bus service, we have no control over which members of the public may also be using the service and there have been occasions where our children have been confronted by unruly behaviour by other passengers.

There are schools deemed to be closer to Tatura (as the crow flies), but the government schools in our area have terrible reputations, set to get even worse with the new Super School. We chose a smaller school, which mirrors our family's values.

St Augustines tried to rectify some of the issues we have raised by offering a private afternoon bus service, but sadly was unable to continue and the service stopped abruptly a few weeks ago.

Ultimately Victorian children living in rural and regional areas should have the right to choose which school they attend and therefore should also have the right to a designated school bus service that is convenient, safe and reliable. A service that has multiple pick up options and drops off directly at school in a safe and efficient manner. A service that is largely provided for free to larger communities. Students shouldn't have to travel on public transport to attend school.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1: [60c6b8714df8f-bus submission.docx](#)

File2:

File3:

Signature:
Scott Field

Mr Scott & Mrs Megan Field

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