

From: [Lisa&James Smith](#)
To: [schoolbusesinquiry](#)
Subject: School Buses in Regional Victoria
Date: Tuesday, 22 June 2021 1:09:41 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to express my concerns of not having a **school bus or a town bus** for my children attending schools within Warragul, Victoria.

We live in a new Estate, named Waterford Rise, which in distance is approx. 2.5 km's from the school. This Estate was established approximately 10 years ago. The Estate has grown exponentially during the last 5 years since we have lived there. A lot of people have moved from the suburbs of Melbourne for more outdoor space at a reasonable price. With the Estate (and also other Estates within Warragul) catering to both locals wanting the Australian dream of owning a home and new residents, this has caused a rapid growth within the town.

My 2 sons attend a local Catholic Primary School, St. Josephs Primary on Burke Street in Warragul. Right next to the Primary School is the Catholic Secondary School, Marist Sion College. My daughter is currently in Year 9 at Marist Sion and my sons are in Grade 6 and Grade 4. There is a private school bus that my daughter could catch to and from school but my 2 boys cannot ride on this bus as they are currently not Marist Sion College students. Therefore, I have to drive my sons to school so there is no point paying for my daughter to ride on this school bus. So every morning and afternoon we are driving to and from school. I am not the only parent doing so, a lot of families are exiting the Estate at the same time as there is no school bus to cater for all school students.

I currently work as a Medical Receptionist 2 days a week from 8.45am - 5.00pm plus extra days. I do not have any family members locally to assist me with dropping off and picking up my children, which makes life very tricky for after school pick up. They have had to walk home sometimes which during bad weather is not a good idea and the walk can take up to 30 minutes altogether. The road from school to the Estate is not a straight forward and safe road to take. **If all my 3 children could catch the same bus**, this would ease my anguish and concern.

I have asked both schools about buses and even contacted the local council, PTV (back in 2019) and the Warragul Bus Lines and I have hit dead ends everywhere. There are a mixture of families with children living in this Estate who all drive out around 8.30am which has caused a great deal of congestion, especially approaching Burke Street, where the 2 schools are located. It can take me up to 20 minutes to drop my children off for a 5 km round trip. This could be completely avoided if there was a bus all my 3 children could use morning and afternoon.

Please consider providing a town bus within Waterford Rise Estate to attend both schools - St. Joseph's Primary and Marist Sion College. It just doesn't make sense that there is not a town bus when the Estate is so big (approx. 25 hectares with 1,225 blocks) and it would ease the congestion around school times and give parents/carers piece of mind that their children are safe as well. It just makes sense.

Thank you for your attention and consideration in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Lisa Smith

