

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

**Organisation Name:**  
**Your position or role:**

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

The Inquiry into possible sharing of school buses is a positive initiative.

We moved to rural Victoria about five years ago and although we have not had direct experience with school buses we believe there is potential to even better utilise what is a very valuable resource during weekdays in term time.

The closest public transport is about 25km from our farm and we do have a school bus stop and shelter adjacent to our property. Our daughter who is a teacher and lives in Geelong does not drive but could visit us for the weekend if she could use the school bus which comes out from Geelong and effectively returns on Monday morning. When they are older, it would be appealing for our grandchildren who live near Geelong if similarly they could catch the school bus and visit us for the weekend.

It would be reassuring for us to know that if for whatever reason we could not drive to Geelong that it would be possible to use the school bus to visit in the morning and return late afternoon. Anakie is the closest township and has no public transport. We expect some who live there do not drive and would therefore appreciate utilizing the school bus to access Geelong.

Security may be a concern and could be addressed by requiring adult passengers to have a working with children check. On many buses it may be possible to have adult passengers sit separately from the children. Most rural school buses are presumably public so it may not be unreasonable for an adult passenger to pay the same fare as would be charged on an equivalent public bus. We have noted in our area that there is a bus operated by a private school and there may be scope for this to be utilised also. As a final thought, some school buses presumably return to 'base' empty and could perhaps carry adult passengers.

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

DSF Atkinson