

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

Organisation Name:CSC

Your position or role: Bus Coordinator

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

File attached

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1: [60d5c73d04472-Inquiry into the use of school buses in rural and regional Victoria.docx](#)

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Inquiry into the use of school buses in rural and regional Victoria

Ms Kellie Showell

Organisation Name: Castlemaine Secondary College

Position: Bus Coordinator

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

I am the bus coordinator for the Castlemaine area based at the Castlemaine Secondary and look after 11 bus runs across our shire.

I have concerns about the expansion of the services to the general public.

1. **Child Safety**

We have students who range in age from prep to year 12 currently using the service and these students often board their buses from outside their driveways in the remote locations. , this would enable members of the public direct knowledge of home locations.

Would we have police checks done on all adults travelling to rule out protentional threats to our students. Drivers need to be concentrating on their job of driving but would be our only eyes on general public having access to our students whilst travelling. I am not assuming that all general public would be a risk but having no way of knowing who would travel is a risk I wouldn't feel comfortable with.

If we should have an incident on the bus which involved both a member of the public and a student how can we follow up?

2. **Bus Run Changes**

If the general public were to use our school buses then would the bus stops change to add additional stops, that would lengthen the bus run and make students travel longer. Many of our runs have no seats available on the runs which would be more likely to have general public want to travel on and who decides who can travel.

3. **Workload Issues**

Who would do the extra paperwork needed to keep track of who is travelling. What would be the costs of maintaining this system if records are needed to set up a duel system?

Tracking in the case of emergencies like Covid would be difficult without full details of those travelling if open to the non-school community.

I would like to see more services offered to students who live inside the 4.8km range of their closest school. As we have no current public buses running in our shire that can assist those families who are in need travel. We have areas which don't have enough seats available for the growth areas in the Mount Alexander Shire and we would welcome a review of the services offered.

Finally, I refer to Submission 46 page 11 of 15 refers to my school area Castlemaine – we have never been consulted about a pilot trial and we have concerns about the items mentioned in this.

***Pilot** To test the integrity of the necessary measures listed herein, BusVic will fund the pilot of a Safe School Travel pilot ICT solution for 12 months on 5 school bus services in the **Castlemaine** area as of May 2021.*

The ICT pilot will consist of: In Vehicle Monitoring System (IVMS) or GPS; cameras; driver communication system; smart card reader machine, and; the full capability of the Connected Bus Solution route monitoring package. Amongst other things, this package will enable parents to monitor the location of their child's bus. The pilot system will be monitored constantly, and regular reports will be generated to evaluate its effectiveness. A final report will be sent to the DET/DOT and the completion of this innovative pilot.