

Thank you for the inquiry this is long over due, it should have been done when the schooling system change with year sevens going into high school.

Education is compulsory and we have started sending our children to school at a much earlier age than when I started school aged six. I know Kindy isn't compulsory and they start off going two days a week for the first semester and three days a week in the second semester, but in today's society if you don't start sending them when it is time it can lead to other issues.

So to me saying that your child has a complimentary seat on a bus when your child is only four and you know that you are going to have more children attending in the future and they won't change a bus route or routes until they are at pre-primary doesn't make sense.

Shires in rural areas can be long and narrow and you could be attending a school in the neighboring shire but there is no bus service to the school in their Shire however the child is only complimentary on the bus they have in their area. The understanding is you might not be allowed on the bus should that bus becomes full. It is the uncertainty that suddenly you might have to drive your kids to school.

Sending your children to two different schools (primary/high school) when you would rather only want them to attend one school but the one bus might only have complimentary seats.

Out in rural areas a lot has to do with your social demographics which town you attend.

Often parents can't afford to send kids to two different schools; uniforms, supporting functions at schools canteens and other parental duties just to name a some, so if someone requests to send them to the one school it should be looked upon favorably. We already loose families out of our towns and districts because of schooling, having a bus system that works with families could help maintain confidence in staying.

Planning routes, maps and google earth are a great tool but sometimes you need to go out and physically see for yourself and drive the intended route. Not all roads are year round all weather access (the shortest way is not always the best way). Local knowledge should be listened to when planning.

Children should be on a bus for the least amount of time and if a better route or circumstances change and someone puts in request for change it should be looked at quickly and if change can happen it should be able to be implemented straight away.

Parents need to have the knowledge on how to go about the process for requests for change. Bus drivers/owners should be listened to as well as they are on the ground driving the bus run.

I will reiterate that in our rural areas keeping families out here is imperative and schooling and school bus services are a major priority, so we don't want to be bogged down with bureaucracy and red tape.

Thank you.