

- > We recently received an application for a new kindy child to start using our bus in term 4. The parents asked for a bus stop at the farm gateway, a short spur on a straight bitumen road. Unfortunately, the road wasn't wide enough for the bus to turn around and there was a relatively deep drop off either side. The shire deemed it inappropriate to build up a turn around there due to the amount of water that lays there. School bus services said this child would have to catch the bus at the nearest existing bus stop. The father works on a nearby farm, the mother doesn't drive. At the end of their short driveway there is ample room for the bus to safely turn around. I have asked school bus services to allow me to do this and argued that surely there are extenuating circumstances for this family, but I have been refused in no uncertain terms. One afternoon when the father was working on one of the farms further away and unable to get back to the designated bus stop on time, we arranged to meet at another bus stop closer to where he was working that day. This poor little boy was so distraught when he couldn't get off at his usual stop.
- > We had a similar situation at the start of the year. A new family with 2 students, father worked on a farm, and the mother doesn't drive. Their house was right on a road we drove straight past, but we were unable to pick them up there until we got the okay from school bus services, in the meantime they were supposed to go to the nearest existing bus stop.
- > During winter it was suggested by school bus services that we change our route to save about 3km. The road (goat track) they suggested we use was in very poor condition, with many washouts. It was classified by the shire as a lowest priority road. We relayed this information to school bus services, but they insisted we use it. I cautiously used it for 2 days, we then had another significant rain event. Deep flowing water now made the road unsafe to use, I informed school bus services. When the water subsided, I took photos of the deep washouts which were much worse now and they agreed I should keep using the older, safer route.
- > Hope this information can be of some help, [REDACTED]