

To the Honourable Members

Having been a Principal and now a bus driver I can say I have had the best of both worlds.

Small schools like Munmlinup have been seeing reduced numbers of late and we know from experience that this will change over time. The last two years have been particularly bad due to closed borders and covid by not seeing people come into farming in our area. We do have many very young kids coming through in the near future which could see numbers rise.

Parents with these children will need a certainty about school bus allocations and not a threat of closure as has been the case.

Kids in the country need to be around their peers and neighbours – not in another entirely different community – socialization is extremely important for younger children

I have children in my role of a bus driver who do 132Km per day – putting this burden on parents and saying we will pay you for it is irrelevant because it is the time they need not the driving. School buses whether in the country or city is a valuable service for all parents and not a person who looks on a map and makes decisions based on a map and not knowing the circumstances or conditions.

Please give due consideration to our valuable farming community and the wonderful people there that make our towns such wonderful places to live – our school is an integral part of all our lives

I remain your humble servant

Mark Rawlings JP

Munmlinup