

I am a mother of 3 school ages children . Up until last term we were part of the school bus run to Pingelly Primary School. The day before school went back last term we were advised we would not have a spot on the bus anymore as the bus needed to change the route to collect a kindy child off our route.

This is when it was advised that my spot on the bus was only complementary as we were not 4.5kms from the school. Google maps & my Odometre reading at 4.6kms to the closer points. Where as school bus services had us at 4.4kms.

The bus could have changed the route to incorporate us but SBS would not hear reason as the line was 4.5km and that was it. In this being said it wasn't only my 3 children that lost a spot there was another 6 children going forward.

The expectation had been set that we were part of this route as since my children started school we have always had the school bus service.

There is no footpath to the school and the route to the school from our location is a truck route so the only option is for the 4 family's in the same area to drive their children into school.

I think there needs to be a case by case look into the school bus service.

The bus we are on was upgraded a year ago so it is a bigger bus with many seats. To collect our children and the others on this side of the bus route & the kindy child on the other side would mean less then an extra 10minutes for all kids on the bus.

We are also faced with the issue of sending children away for school, as currently school bus services class our closest school as a smaller community school located 20kms down the road instead of the larger main school 50kms. Therefore having to drive our children 50kms each way every day as they may not be entitled to the school bus. This is taking all choice away from parents & children may not be getting the best choices for their future and this will lead to more and more children leaving our country towns and having to head to the city for schooling.

SBS policy's need to look at community's and schools in the area not just general acception on a piece of paper that haven't changed in years with no real link to community.