



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

---

Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2015

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Nanango Electorate, School Bus Services**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (11.19 pm): I had to sit in this House tonight and listen to those opposite talking about the supposed cuts under the previous government, but let me give you an example of why Labor cuts just from the regions. I am so disappointed to hear that not one, not two, not three, not four, not five, not six but seven school bus runs are being cut from my electorate in the Somerset. The minister is laughing over there because he does not care about regional Queensland. Seven school buses have been cut from the Somerset electorate, and they sit there and say that they support regional Queensland. What a load of baloney! It is incredible.

Over the last few months I have received many inquiries from families from Harlin, Coominya and Toogoolawah. I have asked the department for a briefing on this, and I understand that some services may have to be reviewed from time to time, but there is a negative impact on these country families. Those opposite do not understand how much this bus service means to these people. In small country towns, in regional areas like Harlin, Coominya and Toogoolawah, it is a highly valued service in the community. It is often run by a small local operator who is well known in the community and has an excellent relationship with families and students.

It is really important that regional areas like ours do not lose essential bus services. These are bus services for school kids, and I will not accept these changes. I know that the school community of Harlin is very concerned about their bus run because it has been combined with the larger bus run from the coast, resulting in them losing their local operator. That particular bus run has been owned and operated by a local family for the past 41 years. The bus is also hired by the Harlin State School for excursions and to travel to the pool for swimming lessons. Small schools are often considerable distances from events, and transportation costs to hire larger buses from larger companies can be prohibitive.

There are other flow-on effects: they buy their fuel from the local town as well. The community is questioning why they would change operators, and the timetabling of the route could be more cost-effective. There are also concerns about the proposed larger bus using a single-lane dirt road and the ramifications of earlier pick-up and later drop-off times for students. I am completely dismayed by this Labor government but unfortunately not surprised, because again we see cuts to regional Queensland.