




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

Record of Proceedings, 3 April 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Narangba, School Bus Services

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.18 pm): I rise tonight to talk about school bus services in Narangba, specifically the need for services to help students get home from Narangba Valley State High School on Wednesday afternoons when classes finish early at 12.30 pm. I have been working with the executive and the P&C at Narangba Valley State High School as well as with Kangaroo Bus Lines, facilitating meetings with Translink representatives. I know the team at Kangaroo Bus Lines have done a lot of work on formal proposals to provide the services the school wants in a way that could be almost cost neutral. That is why I was disappointed recently to receive a letter from the new Minister for Transport telling me that such changes are not possible.

I do note the minister's advice in the same letter that funding for school bus services is prioritised towards expanding the network into new growth areas. I want to point out that 2,500 new homes are now under construction in the new Kinma Valley, around three kilometres from the high school. That is on top of the 1,500 new homes in the Narangba Heights and Ridge View estates. Both fall within the school's catchment area.

With a student body of almost 2,000 now and an enrolment capacity of almost 2½ thousand, we should be investing in transport services for Narangba Valley State High School. I look forward to the minister visiting my electorate this month to talk about the Bruce Highway western alternative when he will get to see this growth for himself if we drive the route.

With more high schools delivering flexible timetables to accommodate vocational education options, work experience placements and a focus on students needing intervention and support, it seems to me that Translink's priorities do need a review, especially when Translink constantly tells us it will not put bus services on for these new estates because the patronage would not warrant them. I reckon that has changed since Labor brought in 50-cent fares.

We have heard so much about community safety in the chamber this week, but when faced with an opportunity to support student safety in Narangba Valley so far it is a no from the LNP, but we will see that change we hope. Student safety is compromised when students leave the school campus to fill in time while waiting for a bus, usually at the shopping centre across the road. The sheer number of students is overwhelming at the shopping centre for other community members, especially local seniors—members can imagine 2,000 students of an afternoon.

Unsupervised students may also be tempted to commit criminal offences. I have heard from community members, shopkeepers and local police about an increase in incidents on Wednesday afternoons. We have an opportunity to turn this around and it is as simple as funding some buses. These are good kids. Let us not let them get on the wrong side of the law through something that can be fixed easily. That is why I have just launched a petition at shaneking.net.au to send a new message and let the minister and the department know that our community deserves better and we want a solution.