



**Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP**  
Member for Inala



**Minister for Transport  
and Multicultural Affairs**

Our ref: PP1690-11

Your ref: Petitions

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 1690-11 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Ros Bates MP, Member for Mudgeeraba on 2 August 2011 about funding increases to improve public transport services to and from the Bonogin Valley.

As you are aware, the government funds school transport services through the School Transport Assistance Scheme. The purpose of this scheme is to fund travel for students in areas where the government has not provided an educational facility. Accordingly, school transport services funded under the scheme are only required to access the nearest state school.

In this case, the petitioners are requesting funding for services to travel beyond their nearest state school. This is not something that can be accommodated under the School Transport Assistance Scheme. In some situations however, operators servicing a state school may make a commercial decision to extend the service beyond that school to cater for non-state students nearby, if there are sufficient student numbers. This is a purely commercial decision that falls outside the scope of the School Transport Assistance Scheme.

In this case, the Department of Transport and Main Roads advises that the operator, Springbook Mudgeeraba Bus Service, does provide services from the Bonogin Valley to St Michael's College, Carrara and All Saints School, Merrimac. An officer has contacted the operator who has advised he will consider providing services to St Vincent's School at Clear Island, if there are sufficient student numbers. The petitioners should therefore, contact the operator on 5533 5133 to discuss this option.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**Anastacia Palaszczuk MP**  
**Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs**

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