

29 October 2020

Rough Road Ruins Run

ICPA Qld was appalled to receive communications from ICPA Clermont branch recently informing us that a school bus run servicing the Kilcummin State School has been suspended due to the unsafe condition of the Kilcummin/Diamond Downs Road, a State controlled district road.

Dept of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) provides this bus run for families living along the Kilcummin/Diamond Downs Road to take children to the Kilcummin State School and the service is currently suspended, at this stage, indefinitely or until the road condition can be improved.

In what is not an isolated occurrence, DTMR declared it not safe for their school bus to run on this road, part of its own network, and one it deems as a Local Road of Regional Significance. ICPA Qld questions if the road is too unsafe for the school bus then is it too unsafe for everyone to drive on? Affected families, who normally access the school bus, are being forced to now undertake independent travel, on this same road, to deliver the students to school daily.

The problem is ongoing and local families have repeatedly failed, over the years, to be heard to get improvements to the road surface. Most recently contact has been made with local and state politicians, DTMR representatives and local mining companies through various channels to no avail.

This service currently delivers 6 students and effects 3 families over a 12km stretch of road that is disrupting the bus run.

ICPA Qld President, Mrs Louise Martin declared that "It is outrageous to think that whilst DTMR has determined it is not safe for the bus to run, it is safe enough for families to drive their children to school in their own vehicle". "If it is not safe for some, such as a school bus, to travel on this road, it is surely not safe for any".

Mrs Martin went further to say, "Students, and their families, have the right to expect that they can arrive, without harm, at school each and every day to undertake their lessons, via their normal school bus."

ICPA Qld will continue to pursue this issue and urges local government and DTMR to work collaboratively to determine a long term resolution to the situation as soon as possible so students at Kilcummin School have consistent, convenient accessibility to their classroom.

ENDS

More Information:

ICPA Qld President – Louise Martin – 0427151234

ICPA QLD Publicity Officer – Melissa Iland – 0428203887