



Andrew Constance
Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 23 June 2017

STRAP IN FOR SEATBELT BONANZA

All regional school buses will have seatbelts four years ahead of schedule, thanks to a \$29 million school bus seatbelt blitz in the NSW budget.

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Andrew Constance said the installation of seatbelts on the rural and regional bus fleet would be fast tracked to ensure the safety of regional public transport.

“We are fast tracking seatbelts on regional school buses, making sure all regional students can travel on buses with seatbelts by December 2019 – four years ahead of schedule,” Mr Constance said.

“This is something our communities have been crying out for and I’m committed to making sure kids across the state can travel to school safely.”

Funding in the 2017-18 NSW budget means all buses travelling on dedicated regional school routes will have seatbelts by December 2019, ahead of the current schedule of 2023.

All 2,800 rural and regional buses will have seatbelts by December 2021 with the replacement of 415 buses and retrofitting 1,937 existing buses, on top of the 515 buses that have already been replaced.

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“Our plan will see almost 1,700 buses which only run school services in rural and regional areas fitted with seatbelts over the next decade, which is an ambitious, but necessary undertaking,” he said.

“The former Labor Government achieved absolutely nothing on this issue and once again it is the NSW Liberals & Nationals who not only do the hard work but deliver for the people of NSW.”

Other recommendations made by the committee which Transport for NSW will adopt to improve regional and rural school bus safety include:

- regular monitoring of new and emerging vehicle safety technologies and where necessary and appropriate, encouraging their use through regional bus contracts;
- A new Student Code of Conduct to ensure parents, students and bus operators know their responsibilities when it comes to wearing seatbelts;
- encouraging schools to use buses fitted with seatbelts for excursions and other charters;
- developing guidelines which outline responsibilities for rural and regional bus operators to encourage students to wear seatbelts when fitted;
- developing a standard for designing rural bus stops to improve safety;
- reviewing regulations relating to speed limits around buses when school bus warning lights are flashing;
- exploring new ways to communicate with stakeholders to improve student safety around school bus zones;
- rolling out communication strategies to identify, share and promote good school bus safety practice.

Full details are available at www.transport.nsw.gov.au/content/school-bus-safety-community-advisory-committee