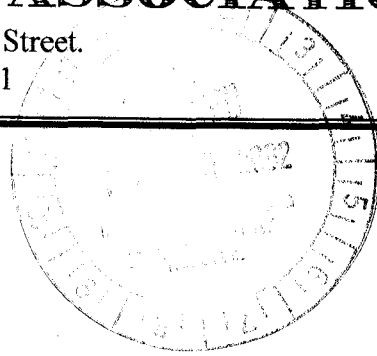


EDEN MARINE TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 188, Barclay Street.
EDEN. N.S.W. 2551



Colin Reid
Director, Water & Transport
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office. NSW. 1230.

27th March, 2002

Dear Sir,

Our Association wishes to draw your attention to the School Student Transport scheme, administered by NSW Dept. of Transport, which allows Bus Contractors to “double-dip” and fails to recognize the changing demands of stakeholders.

We echo the concerns of many parents of High School students, and members of the broader community in the Eden service area regarding the:

- 4) Overcrowding and lack of seatbelts.
- 5) The charging of fares to those students requiring alternate bus travel variations that are education driven or endorsed as educational.
- 6) The charging of fares to those students, who as a matter of occasional need must disembark their regular bus prior to their designated stop.

This occurs despite companies already receiving funding, irrespective of whether the student completes the journey, to transport the child **an** even greater distance on the same route.

As monitoring such a morally objectionable practice must put unnecessary strain on your drivers and create negative community attitudes to a companies' reputation it seems absurd that a company even considers this practice financially viable. Unfortunately some do, and as they lack a competitive marketplace are unwilling to reconsider.

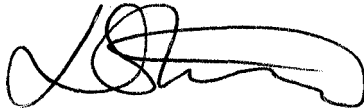
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I have been advised by the Dept of Transport that although their policy **and** contractual agreements permit the application of extra fares it is at the companies discretion to do so.

We seek the abolition of these fares, particularly in the case of those **outlying rural** students where costs associated with distance combined **with time restrictions** already impede their ability to participate in educational activities, sport, attend appointments etc, and demand **an urgent public Inquiry** into school **bus** safety.

Yours faithfully,



Lorene Stewart.
Secretary.