

Choosing Informal Bus Stop Locations in Rural Areas

These guidelines are to assist bus drivers and bus operators in assessing the safety of informal bus stops in rural areas for school and public bus services. This one-page guide has been adapted from the 'Guidelines for Choosing Informal Bus Stop Locations Version 1.0'.

Is the area safe to stop?

- Is the stop clearly visible to other road users?
- Is there enough space for the bus to safely pull completely off the road? Or, if stopping on or partly on the road, is the stop at least 100m from any nearby turn, bend or crest which may limit visibility?
- Is the stop located on a stretch of road with broken centre lines, centre lines indicating that traffic approaching the bus and travelling in the same direction may safely pass, or, if the road is unmarked, is the road wide enough to allow other vehicles to pass safely?
- Is the stop more than 10m from any stretch of road with double barrier centre lines?
- Is the stop at least 20 metres from any nearby intersection? If the stop area is less than 5 metres from the edge of the road, is the stop at least 50 metres from the intersection?
- Is the stop more than 100m from any sharp turn, bend, crest or other portion of the road that may limit visibility?
- Is there at least 4 metres distance from the edge of the road for pedestrians to wait?

Safely boarding and disembarking the bus

- Bus drivers should ensure that the warning lights are activated for school bus services when:
 - slowing the bus to make a stop,
 - the bus is stationary at a stop,
 - there are students nearby, and
 - for 10-20 seconds after the passenger has disembarked and the doors have been closed;
- refrain from opening the doors to the bus until the bus is completely stationary;
- ensure passengers have completely disembarked and moved away from the bus, or have boarded and are safely seated, before closing the door and driving off.

If you answered NO to any of these questions, then the area may not be safe to stop.

Passengers, parents/carers, bus drivers and operators should consider whether there is an alternative place to stop nearby. In instances where a nearby safe stop cannot be identified, the matter should be referred to Public Transport on 8924 7666 or email public.transport@nt.gov.au for further consideration and assessment.