

*Wednesday, 25 October 2006*

## **Hodge backs Liberals on student travel policy**

Miles Hodge, Country Alliance's candidate for the Western Victoria Region today congratulated the announcement by the leader of the Liberal Party his party's plans for free student travel on public transport.

Mr Hodge said that this would be of immense benefit to all students from rural areas where travel is a particularly big problem for students. Also it would allow others who are forced by distance to remain in the city through the week to return home on week-ends to visit family and friends.

Mr Hodge went on to say that some of the most common drawbacks to rural students pursuing higher levels of education was distance, loneliness and the cost of travelling home.

"This is the sort of innovative thinking that is needed by all sides of politics," Mr Hodge said.

"This should be supported by all parties and if elected I will not let this promise become 'non core'," Mr Hodge concluded.

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