



### **Item 7.3 Petition – Hoon Driving in Port Melbourne**

A Petition containing 8 signatures, was received from the Port Melbourne Road Safety Group.

#### **The Petition states the following: -**

*'Due to frustration with escalating hoon driving and associated noise in the City of Port Phillip, a Port Melbourne Road Safety Group (PMRSG) was established in 2020, closely aligned with the Beacon Cove Neighbourhood Association.*

*Early in 2021, Council received a petition from the PMRSG regarding increasing hoon incidents in the CoPP. This petition was considered in the Council meeting of 3 February 2021 under Item 7.4, with the support of several residents who spoke to the meeting. The minutes from that meeting recorded actions against Item 7.4 and we draw your attention to key items, namely:*

*That Council:*

- 3. Notes that Council officers will continue to meet with Victoria Police and the Department of Transport to discuss these issues and investigate options such as road safety cameras, variable message signs and other treatments to deter this behaviour.*
- 7. Request officers to provide Council with a report to consider the requirements and costings of the purchase and implementation of mobile CCTV trailers in conjunction with the Port Phillip Police Service Area by July 2021.*
- 8. Requests officers submit a joint application with the Port Phillip Police Service Area to the Community Safety Infrastructure Grant Program for the purchase of a mobile CCTV camera.*

*Regarding Action 8, we understand the application for the grant was unsuccessful, to our joint dismay. Whilst the application may have been declined, the need has not diminished, in fact we believe it has become more urgent.*

*Last summer saw a significant increase in the amount and severity of hooning within the City of Port Phillip (CoPP). Councillors will recall the hoon gatherings at Station Pier in Gateway Ward, similar gatherings on Pier Road and the violent events on Marine Parade where the police had to retreat from a dangerous situation in Lake Ward. Additionally, local police inform us of similar events along the foreshore of Canal Ward.*

*Unfortunately, we advise Councillors that hoon activity is continuing. Evidence of this is contained in a video we recently sent to all Councillors, taken at Station Pier from a residential balcony on the night of Friday 30 July 2021. Disturbed residents called 000 to report the occurrence and police did attend, but by that time participants had largely dispersed.*

*Our Road Safety representatives recently held a fruitful meeting with Inspector Helen Chugg of the CoPP Police Service Area, supported by two of her senior road traffic personnel. They confirmed that, whilst they support our requests for assistance, the lack of CCTV equipment disadvantages their enforcement activity. They also affirmed our contention that incidents will increase as the weather warms and the beach promenade becomes more attractive. Feeder main roads will again be impacted by the problem.*

*We also inform Councillors that we have been investigating the use of acoustic cameras in other jurisdictions, particularly overseas. From that research, it is apparent that the UK is taking a leading*

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## 18 AUGUST 2021



role and we have contacted a local borough there to enquire as to their approach and results. From preliminary feedback, it appears they are having considerable success in identifying and charging offenders. We note however, that our research is somewhat constrained by a dearth of formality and authority.

### **The following Petitioners hereby request that:**

- Council acts as a matter of urgency in addressing this issue, as the frequency of anti-social behaviour traditionally increases as summer months approach;
- Regarding Action 3 from Council's 3 February meeting, the PMRSG be given a summary of the information derived from discussions with Victoria Police and the Department of Transport;
- Regarding Action 7 from Council's 3 February meeting, the PMRSG be given a copy of the report that was to be prepared by July 2021;
- Regarding Action 8 from Council's 3 February meeting, in absence of gaining a grant, CoPP funds be specifically and urgently allocated as part of the September Quarterly Budget Review, to procure one or more CCTV cameras for use across the City. We ask that these be allocated by police to places of greatest need and nominate Station Pier as a primary location. There are also other areas in the CoPP where the siting of a mobile CCTV unit will (a) act as a deterrent to those considering behaving in an antisocial manner (including "hooning" behaviour) and (b) assist police in identifying those involved in such behaviours and in substantiating any charges that may be laid arising from those behaviours;
- Regarding acoustic cameras, that a CoPP officer be assigned to urgently, and formally, investigate the introduction of acoustic traffic cameras in Australia, the UK, Europe, and the US. Further, we request the PMRSG assist with the terms of reference of any such investigation with a view to reporting back to the CoPP before the end of this calendar year.'

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Petition; and
2. Notes Officers will provide a response a future Council Meeting.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil