



Item 7.1 Petition – Dangerous Hoon Driving, Excessive Noise and Toxic Fumes across Port Melbourne

A Petition containing 53 signatures, was received from local residents.

The Petition states the following:-

The Petition of the residents named below draws the attention of the Council to a significant increase in very dangerous hoon driving and excessive noise/toxic fumes across Port Melbourne and in particular at Station Pier, Williamstown Road, Beach Street, Bay Street, Beaconsfield Parade, and nearby streets. Station Pier/Waterfront Place, in particular, has become a frequent meeting place for overwhelming numbers of hooning cars/bikes requiring continued police intervention. On November 20 a resident was threatened/assaulted by hoons/young thugs resulting in an investigation by the Victorian Police. 'Hooning meetings' at Station Pier are detrimentally impacting the entire City of Port Phillip (CoPP).

HOW IS THIS IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY?

The noise, smoke and dangerous driving is compromising community safety and impacting resident quality of life and mental health. Residents advise they are avoiding the Station Pier area at night as they do not feel safe. Residents have witnessed dangerous driving and near misses at the Station Pier pedestrian crossings. Property owners around Station Pier are moving out of their homes due to 'hoon noise' with owners' corporations around Station Pier seeing hooning as a major quality of life issue. Hoons urinating around the Station Pier makes the area even more undesirable.

STATION PIER -THE NAUTICAL GATEWAY TO MELBOURNE

Sadly the historical significance of Station Pier, especially for the many migrants who arrived at Station Pier and live in the City of Port Phillip, plus the thousands of servicemen departing to the wars, is being totally disrespected and violated by ignorant hoons.

PPCC -IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFE OPERATION OF STATION PIER--

Recent police reports and abundant video evidence confirm that the area is definitely not safe and further immediate action is required to make it safe.

The following petitioners hereby request that Council, at its meeting on 1st December, 2021 to action the measures below which will significantly reduce hooning at Station Pier and consequently throughout the CoPP:

- 1. Installation of automatic boom gates at the entrance and exit of Station Pier similar to those used at the South Melbourne Market. The registration of vehicle number plates and being required to pay for parking will make Station Pier significantly unattractive to hoons. Such boom gates could be programmed to allow free parking for, say, 30 minutes for those buying coffee and the Station Pier restaurants could validate discounted parking. The boom gates could remain open during the Spirit of Tasmania sailing times. This permanent Station Pier solution will reduce hooning behaviour in local streets and roads and enable the use of the mobile CCTV trailer system to be used in other Co PP hotspot locations.*



2. *If the installation of boom gates is delayed, then the immediate installation of 6 obvious CCTV cameras including flashing blue lights on the entrance and exit of Waterfront Place /Station Pier. The logical location is mounting on existing light poles. Those permanent cameras will enable council and police to then utilize the mobile camera system in other hot spot locations. Note that the adjacent Princes' Pier has 14 CCTV cameras.*
3. *The current walkways around Delish Fish and Mr Hobson cafe to be classified as pedestrian/bicycle use only with signs advising that parking of motorcycles in that area is not permitted. Barriers that allow the free flow of pedestrians and bicycles but impeding motorcycles parking in the area needs to be considered.*

OFFICER COMMENT

Hooning, particularly during summer months, impacts the quality of life and sense of security of residents.

While Victoria Police (and not Council) has the statutory enforcement powers to respond to criminal behaviour such as speeding and dangerous driving, Council works closely with police to manage the issue. For example, on 3 November 2021 Council approved hiring a mobile CCTV unit for six months over the summer period. The trial has commenced and will enable council and police to test the effectiveness of the solution and gather feedback from the community.

In addition, Victoria Police have identified that over the 2021/22 summer period they will:

- Install tactical cameras at Station Pier, a known gathering site for hooning.
- Trial a Mobile Processing Unit Van with CCTV capability.
- Deploy mobile speed cameras to Beaconsfield Parade and Pier Road.

The petitioners have made three requests that will require investigation and a report back can be provided to Council in March 2022.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1 Thanks the petitioners for their advocacy on behalf of the community on this matter.
- 2 Receives and notes the Petition.
- 3 Instructs officers to investigate the requests in the petition and report back to Council in March 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil