

# Hooning in Greater Dandenong

Enquires: [RoadSafety@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:RoadSafety@cgd.vic.gov.au)

## ***Issue:***

Hoon driving is a dangerous and illegal behaviour. It endangers the lives of drivers and other road users.

The City of Greater Dandenong is working with Victoria Police, TAC and the Department of Transport to reduce hoon driving.

Hoon driving is:

- driving at dangerous speeds
- illegal drag racing or speed trials
- overloading a vehicle where there are more passengers than seat belts
- intentional loss of traction or drifting
- inciting, encouraging or organising any of the above.

Addressing this behavioural issue is a challenge, and requires ongoing Enforcement, Education and Engineering activity.

## ***Enforcement:***

Council cannot undertake enforcement involving a moving vehicle engaged in these activities. The only bodies with Authority to undertake this type of enforcement are Victoria Police, Department of Justice and in some instances the Department of Transport. Within Victoria almost all enforcement measures targeted at Hoon driving are undertaken by Victoria Police.

What Council undertakes to support the Police:

- Provision of data and intelligence to improve enforcement efficiency
- Support in securing funding for additional mobile CCTV trailers
- Support in locating portable CCTV's in 'hoon hotspots' identified by Victoria Police
- Installation of overnight parking restrictions in locations where large gatherings are taking place
- Advocacy to the Victorian Government for increased resourcing to address the increase in hooning in the region
- Provision of advice to the community on how to assist with enforcement
- Create specific 'hoon provisions' in its Local Law to give Victoria Police the legal basis for enforcement not available in other legislation.
- Council authorised officers participation in Police Hoon operations with respect to associated local law offences.

Greater Dandenong is amongst the most progressive Councils in Victoria in assisting the police in this space, with the changes to local laws in particular something few

Councils have undertaken.

The recommended advice provided by Victoria Police for members of the community is to contact CrimeStoppers. This is more effective than reporting to your local police as the statistics assist the police in obtaining additional resources for the region. Contacting Council and/ or a councillor when hooning activity is taking place does not assist in getting the required enforcement action.

Report hooning to Crime Stoppers if you:

- see drivers putting the safety of themselves or others at risk
- know the identity of people who often drive in a risky way.

All reports are confidential.

When you report a hoon, provide as much information as you can, such as:

- the type of hoon driving problem — speeding, doing burnouts or doughnuts, etc.
- location — street and suburb
- when it happens — days of the week and times of the day
- description of vehicles involved — make, model and colour and registration, if possible
- the driver's identification — physical description and their name and address, if known.

Contacting Crime Stoppers:

- Online: Visit **crimestoppersvic.com.au** and select 'Report a Crime'.
- Call: **1800 333 000**

If you feel you are in immediate danger, call triple zero (000) for help

## ***Education:***

In association with RoadSafe South East, Council facilitates and supports road safety education programs delivered at schools and sporting clubs. These programs introduce young drivers and potential drivers to the impact of road trauma. They also cover other issues such as drink and drug driving.

Council may be able to facilitate some education programs for any groups that are interested.

The Looking After Our Mates program is a session which focuses on activities such as hooning, drug and drink driving etc. and is targeted at young drivers. If you are interested in a Looking After Our Mates session within Greater Dandenong, please contact Council via:

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*RoadSafety@cgd.vic.gov.au*

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## ***Engineering:***

In some instances, engineering measures can be used to assist with hooning issues. These include:

- Selection of alternate wearing course on new industrial roads (which temporarily makes the road unsuitable / undesirable for hoon activity)
- The use of timed parking restrictions, turn bans or other traffic management to aid enforcement

Council does not install traffic-calming infrastructure to address hooning issues. Infrastructure, such as speed cushions, does not stop or prevent hoons. Instead, hoons move to another location within the area. Some areas are also not suitable for traffic calming devices such as industrial areas where vertical displacement can damage goods on trucks.

Road safety infrastructure is expensive and providing this in every residential street in the municipality is not financially possible. Limited funding is allocated to locations where ongoing benefit will be realised.

## ***What does Council do when it receives an enquiry about speeding?***

### **Contact Customer:**

The customer will be contacted and officers will determine whether the issue relates to Hooning, or is a broader speeding issue.

### **Broader Speeding Issues:**

Officers will gather as much detail as possible from the customer

If Councils traffic data is more than 3 years old (or if traffic volumes may have been impacted by development etc.) then Council will collect new traffic data and analyse this

If low cost measures (signage or line marking) will assist these will be installed

If high cost measures (roundabouts, lights, speed humps) will assist, the location is added to Councils Local Area Traffic Management Prioritisation Program

### **Hooning Issues:**

Officers will advise the customer how to best report the matter via Crime Stoppers

If the location appears to regularly be affected, then officers will also raise the matter with Victoria Police and the next scheduled meeting

## ***What locations in Greater Dandenong are impacted by Hooning?***

Hooning behaviour has seen a rapid increase across the whole of metropolitan Melbourne since the easing of Covid restrictions in 2021. All areas within the municipality are subject to some of this behaviour.

Council officers are aware of larger Hooning Events in some locations and have been working with the Police to target these, including:

- Princes Highway between Springvale Junction and Eastlink
- Dandenong South Industrial Areas

A higher level of community concerns are raised in Keysborough (near the Dandenong Bypass), Noble Park North and Dandenong North than in other areas.

In residential areas in Dandenong North and Noble Park North, customers often advise us that the offenders are known to the community.

## ***The Victorian Hooning Community Reference Group***

A Statewide Hooning Community Reference Group has been established by the State government, after an increase in reckless driving behaviour during the coronavirus pandemic.

The new reference group will bring together community and stakeholders with experts in road safety across government, enforcement and research bodies to develop a new Victorian Hoon Driving Action Plan. It will focus on identifying potential short, medium and long-term solutions to increase education, improve early intervention and support deterrence in key hooning hot spots across Melbourne's north, west and south-east.

Council Officer Martin Halden has been invited to take part in this group.

Updates on actions will be provided via Councils dedicated hooning page on our website:

<https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council/hooning>



If any member of the community wishes to discuss hooning further, they can contact Council via:

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