



VICTORIA POLICE

Our Ref: FF-176750 D20/077417
Your Ref: M Wilson/dp/NoM 687

Office of the Assistant Commissioner
North West Metropolitan Region
Victoria Police Centre, Tower 1, Level 2
637 Flinders Street, Docklands 3008

Cr Lara Carli
MAYOR
City of Melton
PO Box 21
MELTON VIC 3337

Dear Cr Carli,

Re: City of Melton request for establishment of police hub / centre within Rockbank / Aintree

I have been asked by the Chief Commissioner to respond to the Melton Council's resolution that you write to him to request on behalf of Council that consideration be given to the possibility of opening a Victoria Police hub / centre within the Rockbank / Aintree area.

As the Assistant Commissioner with responsibility for delivering effective policing services throughout the North Western Metropolitan Region, I share Council's concern that police are best placed to keep our community safe. I also appreciate Council's support for the work we do together and take this opportunity to thank you and Council for your ongoing support for the "U Turn" programme which is addressing the needs and behaviours of high risk and vulnerable youth across the Melton LGA.

North Western Metropolitan Region comprises five Divisions and the Melton Local Government Area (LGA) along with the Brimbank LGA form Division No. 3, which is led by a Divisional Commander at Superintendent rank, Superintendent David Jones. I have shared your letter with Superintendent Jones and he has asked me to assure you that his Division is focussed on maximising public safety by being there when the community most needs us, driving down crime and keeping our roads safe through arresting offenders, maximising our visible policing presence to deter would be offenders and not giving an inch to repeat offenders who continue to cause our communities harm.

I am also confident that Inspector Zorka Dunstan, who is responsible for policing in Melton, shares our commitment to keeping our community safe and I know that Inspector Dunstan is very keen to continue working with Council to understand your concerns and ensure that we do everything we can to keep the City of Melton safe.

I also assure you that Superintendent Jones and Inspector Dunstan have the support of all of the specialist policing resources available to them from across their Division and indeed, the wider Northwest Metropolitan Region and State-wide resources to improve community safety for Melton.

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While I note Council is of the view that establishing a policing hub may support our ability to improve community safety, policing is most effective when policing resources are supported by a service delivery model which allows us to be as agile and as adaptive as those who act to defeat community safety. One of the unintended consequences of a "bricks and mortar" approach to policing is that it nails at least 24 pairs of boots to that site, simply to keep the new "shop" open and so seriously limits our ability to deploy our people to where the community most needs us; in their streets, in their homes and where our community goes to work, school shop, or enjoy themselves.

We therefore prefer an approach where we are seeking to upgrade and modernise existing plant and equipment so our people are better supported to prevent, deter, detect, investigate and arrest those who would do our community harm, not in police stations, but where that harm is occurring.

Victoria Police has therefore developed a staffing allocation model, based on demand growth factors (which include projected population growth, crime rates and calls for service), which we use to inform government decisions about where additional police should be deployed to service future growth, rather than only building additional sites which would tie our people to a fixed point service delivery model.

I also advise that Victoria Police will be reviewing our service delivery model over the next couple of years to ensure our "footprint", our staffing levels and the way we task our people better supports a safer community because police are where the community most needs us. As we develop the service delivery model, your local police, through Superintendent Jones and Inspector Dunstan will take the opportunity to engage with the communities we serve to ensure we understand community needs and challenges and ensure these are considered as we improve our service delivery.

We therefore look forward to continuing our work towards a safer community with the City of Melton.

Yours sincerely,



Luke Cornelius APM
Assistant Commissioner
North West Metropolitan Region

6 August 2020