



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria  
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

## MEDIA RELEASE



### Grimley Calls for Hoon Event Penalties

10 September 2021

State leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party, Stuart Grimley MP has asked the Minister for Road Safety, Ben Carroll, to investigate state-wide penalties for attending a hoon event.

Penalties for attending a hoon event exist in Brimbank Council's local government area in Melbourne's west; however this can create inconsistency in similar laws from council to council. The laws were introduced anti-hoon in 2018 to curb the large number of hoon meets occurring. The laws in Brimbank are said to be working, with a visible reduction in hoon meets in the area since being enacted.

Currently, it is only illegal to *commit* hooning offences in Victoria, such as deliberately causing a vehicle to skid, smoke or make excessive noise or drive above 45km/h or more above the speed limit.

However, when police arrive at large hoon events, the bystanders or spectators cannot be fined. These spectators promote hooning behaviour by providing an audience and platform for these idiots to break the law.

If caught breaking Brimbank's local laws, spectators can be fined 8 penalty units (\$800) by local police, as they have been appointed authorized officers. These local laws state that *A person must not participate in, encourage, or attend a hoon event without lawful excuse and The driver of a motor vehicle must not stop or park in close proximity to a hoon event without lawful excuse*, where "hoon event" means *one or more vehicles being driven in a manner involving either, the loss of traction, racing, time trials, or by which undue noise or smoke is caused*.

Hoon events are happening in Melbourne suburbs and in regional towns throughout Victoria. People are organising events online or through word and mouth, putting public safety at risk and potentially damaging private businesses or public infrastructure.

#### Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"As a police officer, it was extremely frustrating to only be able to charge the people behind the wheel at hoon meets. The spectators are just as much at fault by providing a platform for these idiots to show off. It's only a matter of time until we see large casualties at one of these events.

The Brimbank Council laws have been extremely successful in eliminating these large hoon events from the area. I'm told that when police have attended these hoon events and handed out fines, not one has been successfully contested in court.

One particular event saw almost \$80,000 in fines paid to the Council within just two months of the infringement notice being given.

Given its success, there is talk of other councils across Melbourne implementing their own hoon meet penalties. There is a real opportunity for the Government to reduce hoon events in the state."

#### Office of Stuart Grimley Media Contact:

Callum Whitehead / 0437 096 982 / [callum.whitehead@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:callum.whitehead@parliament.vic.gov.au)