

North East truck curfew trial

Community engagement report

During August 2016, the community was given the opportunity to provide insight and feedback on their experiences with the curfew trial to date.



A number of suggestions were provided to us that included comments on amending the curfew, thoughts on safety improving and the benefits of the curfew.

How we engaged with you

The local and wider community were invited to two community information sessions, where they had the opportunity to talk to VicRoads staff and were encouraged to share their ideas and thoughts with us.

- Thursday, August 4
Banyule Anglican Church
1 Burgundy Street,
Heidelberg
- Saturday, August 6
St Margaret's Anglican
Church 79-81 Pitt St,
Eltham

Over 500 local residents were invited to our information sessions via letterbox drop. Local business and industry advocates and councils were also encouraged to share details with their constituents.

In addition, members of the community, truck industry and anyone else interested were encouraged to contribute to the discussion via the VicRoads online forum, which was open for two weeks.

We ran a social media campaign to inform the community and gather feedback. Our campaign reached nearly 53,000 individuals and generated 148 comments, 25 shares and 243 reactions.

In total, 249 individual comments were received via the VicRoads facebook page, online engagement

website and via hard copy submissions on the truck trial curfew. Feedback was received from multiple suburbs, including; Greensborough, Eltham, Diamond Creek and Alphington.

Out of these, 119 comments were directly related to the curfew.

A Community Reference Group (CRG) was established in late 2015. The group comprises of a number of local residents, business representatives, local council and truck group representatives. The group was assembled as a guiding body for the truck trial and has been essential to our decision making process.

Summary of results

Following is a summary of what we heard from the community grouped into a number of themes. Each item of feedback was recorded and considered, and where possible, incorporated into the final design. Our response to the feedback and how it was considered is outlined below.

While we received a range of feedback and comments, only suggestions that are directly related to the North East truck curfew trial have been included on the following pages.

Details of each comment are outlined in Appendix 1

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What we heard

Below is a snapshot of the most common themes we heard for the North East truck curfew trial.

Compliance

Compliance was raised consistently throughout all of the community engagement. Many residents raised concern over still seeing trucks using the roads during the curfew period and the perceived lack of enforcement.

Congestion

Another common theme was the congestion increase in the area, particularly on Rosanna Road. The morning and afternoon peaks have seen an increase in general truck traffic, as well as motor vehicles. VicRoads has released a report on the truck traffic counts for 2016 which outlines truck movement throughout the North East.

Curfew

There was generally a strong appetite for the curfew to be amended. The majority of comments suggest that shifting the time of the curfews would decrease truck congestion on the roads during the commuter peaks, as well as decreasing the

pressure on industry and delivery drivers.

Some community members requested that we increase the curfews to 24 hours and include additional roads.

Network

The effects of the curfew have been felt across the road network. We received feedback from residents outside of the curfew zone indicating the noted increase of trucks in their areas during the curfew period (10pm-6am). Trucks are now using alternative routes to access their destination. Additionally, community members have indicated that there has been an increase of trucks during the morning and afternoon peaks.

A common suggestion among the comments was the need for additional infrastructure, such as a north east link.

Noise

The comments that we received regarding noise were positive. It was noted that the noise, particularly along Rosanna Road, had noticeably dropped since the introduction of the truck curfew trial.

Safety

Safety and the safety concerns of residents were mentioned without fail during the engagement period. Rosanna Road was the main focal point, with many concerned residents discussing the narrow lane widths and vehicles making right-hand turns. VicRoads is currently working on a SSRIP project that aims to improve safety along Rosanna Road.

Trade

Many traders and truck drivers have felt the impact of the North East truck curfews keenly; their concerns have been expressed via the CRG, information sessions and our online engagement web page. The dominant issues are the loss of produce, increased driver fatigue and unsafe alternative routes being used to circumnavigate the curfew roads.

Next steps

Once we have met with the Community Reference Group, we will submit a recommendation to the Victorian Government on the future of the curfew before the end of 2016.

Further information will be made available via the VicRoads website

Vicroads.vic.gov.au

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like to be kept updated on the project, we encourage you to contact us via the details below.

Call

VicRoads on 13 11 70

Write

499 Ballarat Road

Sunshine, VIC 3070

Email

mnw.communications@roads.vic.gov.au

Web

Vicroads.vic.gov.au

Appendix 1- Comments received during the community engagement period.

Comments/feedback/ideas

Below is an appendix of ideas and suggestions for the North east truck curfew trial; this includes online forum posts, social media and hard copy submissions.

Compliance

'Why are trucks regularly seen along Hendersons Road, attempting to turn left at this round-a-bout? The amount of times that "keep left" sign has been replaced...'

'Was the curfew ever policed? I start my day early, so I'll be travelling south on Rosanna Rd 5.30am & almost every morning there was a truck travelling the opposite direction that shouldn't be there.'

'The trucks have not stopped going up and down Bolton St between 10pm and 6am. Apparently there is an exclusion to the ban that we weren't told about. I'd like to know if there have been any fines.'

'Trucks still using road when curfew on no policing roads.'

'Private rubbish removal companies ignored curfew.'

'Picking up bins after midnight sometimes as early as 4am.'

'Great on the Main Street in Eltham, have noticed the Coles delivery trucks being cheeky with it though.'

'Trucks still using road when curfew on no policing roads.'

'We see trucks using our streets as a rat run avoiding plenty road or Rosanna road. We see a no trucks after 9pm sign, we've never see a patrol car looking out for those who disobey these laws.'

'Well I live in one of these roads, can tell you trucks still use the roads in early hours I once rang vic roads nothing changed.'

Congestion

'Traffic is even more congested during the peak hours and peak hours last much longer - e.g. traffic is still bumper to bumper at 1030am!!'

'Trucks still use Rossana Rd at all hours. Rossana road is a nightmare to drive any at any time of the day. Double B trucks should be banned as they are dangerous to residents and cause congestion.'

'Curfew doesn't allow traffic to ease at any point. 6am open-peak hour-school-lunch-school-peak hour. Finally traffic eases and curfew starts again. Not to mention time and money spent not moving.'

'Too many double D trucks during peak hour.'

'Trucks still use Rossana Rd at all hours. Rossana road is a nightmare to drive any at any time of the day. Double B trucks should be banned as they are dangerous to residents and cause congestion.'

'Eastbound traffic is highly disadvantaged at peak times as the westbound right turn arrow (to G'borough Hwy northbound) is held green for longer. Often barely 2-3 cars get through.'

'Since the opening of Eastlink there has been a pull-factor drawing heavy traffic through this area that used to take City Link and the Tunnels. Now it is more attractive to avoid the tolls.'

'Truck curfew should also cover morning peak traffic. Rosanna road is a shocker between 6:30am and 9:30am. The narrow lanes especially are a major problem with such large trucks.'

'Costs an extra 30 minutes travel time and 14km extra drive for me to go around the curfew area. Often now I just wait till 6am and add more traffic on peak period. Nice thinking'

'I just see more trucks during peak hour than there was in the morning.'

'Better the truckies can do their work at night when there is less congestion.'

'Can't sleep cause of the noise? Don't buy near a major road, invest in soundproofing, use earplugs.'

'Having lived here for 30 years the traffic in general has gotten so bad. Having the curfew has cut down on the noise level at night which is a good start but it's not just trucks congesting the roads.'

'Safety, greater risk for accidents with more trucks in only 2 lanes and congestion seems worse. Was better when trucks could drive at night.'

Curfew

'Much better for drivers and residents not to have trucks moving through at such late hours in suburban streets. Trucks

should be restricted to major roads like tulla, eastern etc.'

'10pm to 6am..... I'm not even on the roads then. Rosanna Road through the day is still frightening'

'In theory good idea but just after 6 up to ten double b trucks pour down Rosanna rd You can set you watches by it.'

'I find it more annoying as the trucks are moving to side streets. I think get rid of this curfew so it makes the side streets safer. It's a major road, don't buy a house on a major road and complain'

'Noticed a reduced number of trucks using Bolton Street during the curfew hours. Not stopping all but definitely an improvement. Keep the curfew. Bolton street isn't suitable for large trucks. Ring rd'

'The truck curfew is brilliant. Extend it further 8pm to 6pm. Francis st in footscray has 8-6 and it's an industrial area. The main rd and Rosanna rd is 100% residential. Don't listen to sooky truckies.'

'Stop the trucks over 5t at the 80 km marker of the city then rail from there to say ten drop offs.'

'Then 5t truck there on with a limit of no more than 40 km from depot ?? NO heavy truck in the city can't be too hard.'

'Oh please, anything you can do to keep the huge speeding trucks off Carwarp Avenue and Erskine Road would be appreciated.'

'Just a stupid bandaid solution typical response to a problem from pen pushers'

'Would let the trucks run all night and charge them a toll if they run between 6 and 9'

'Curfew does not solve anything. It means even more congestion after the curfew.....Stupid!'

'Rosanna Road is a basket case between 6:30 and 19:00. Trucks should be banned between these hours and allowed to use Rosanna Road during the hours of darkness.'

'Great idea let it stay.'

'The old trying to patch the problem instead of fixing it. Driving back roads through residential areas because of poor road infrastructure /ponder.'

'Unnecessary, traffic ensure that speed is slow- even lower speed limit maximum for all traffic to 40

kmh Burgundy St to Lower Plenty Rd.'

'I would like to see speed limits of 40/50 kmh. 1 km exclusion zone around schools for parents dropping kids off. Apply tolls to trucks along Rosanna Rd- even as a trial to see the effect.'

'I live nearby so appreciate the lack of engine brake noise at night. Market trucks should be exempt- effect on all parties should be considered. If speed was limited to 50 kmh and ENFORCED together with effective noise limits including for engine brakes, perhaps curfews would not be necessary.'

'Curfew needs to be stringent. There are trucks still pass through during curfew hours and they are not delivery trucks. Reduce speed limits, trucks drive on centre lanes.'

'Yes, let's restrict heavy vehicles to day time only,!? Mix them in with the school run mums, peak hour traffic, commuter buses and bicycle's. That's real sensible planning. NOT.'

Network wide

'In Europe the trucks have to stay in the slow lane ie our left. They

can only move to the next lane when overtaking and never go into other lanes. They have lots of trucks. Most small and large towns have ring roads to keep out the majority of traffic.'

'Curfews at night time is good. Fruther: the trucks travelling along rosanna Rd at day time should be limisted by weight. Need have a proper plan for the link between Ring Road and East Link and MAKE TEH LINK Rosanna Rd was not designed to handle the transportation from Ring Road to East Link.'

'Main concern is high traffic volume of traffic, including trucks and OD vehicles during the day. Desperately need the NE link to prove long term relief to the traffic travelling along Rosanna Rd and Greensborough Rd.'

'I live in Warrandyte and since these curfews came into place the trucks now use Warrandyte to get through. Quit with the bandaid measures and complete the NE link.'

'Happy with the curfew and have noticed a small difference in reduced noise, however it isn't really fair as there are limited options for alternative routes.'

Finish the ring road to be a proper ring.'

'It has just pushed the trucks to use other roads like Kangaroo-Ground - Warrandyte rd. pushing heavy vehicles into smaller feeder roads. Not the right solution.'

'The issue for this general area is that at the end of the WRR ends in Greensborough the trucks in particular clog up streets through G/b, Watsonia, Banyule and Heidelberg and become area problem.'

'Your survey doesn't include areas that have been negatively affected by the ban - those areas that trucks now go instead. Trucks have increased significantly on Chandler Hwy with engine brakes at 4am'

'We know you have designed and costed linking the end of the ring road to the eastern freeway via a tunnel after the barracks. So just get it approved and get it in!!!'

'How about making the "ring road" a "ring road".'

'Still see trucks on Greensborough Rd after the curfew. You might stop a lot but there is still trucks coming

through. The connection from Ring Rd to EastLink must be completed as soon as possible as the problem during the day time will not cease until it is built.'

'A lot of Trucks are exiting the Hume hwy at Donnybrook, cutting thru Across to Yan Yean Rd, then going across thru Hurstbridge, Wattle Glen, Kangaroo ground, Warrendyte to Ringwood, then onto EASTLINK.'

'The curfew in one area has just shifted the traffic and problems to other areas.'

'The trucks, speeding cars and bikes that now travel down station/albert st to go north - south is ridiculous.'

'Instead of closing half of the east which is also part of an OD route why dont u start pushing the government to build the missing link to the M80. Greensborough to Ringwood. Save time. save fuel.'

'Build the road between Greensborough and Mitcham that will fix the problem if you don't toll it.'

'Join the freeways between greensborough and bulleen and we wouldn't need these curfews.'

Network and congestion

'It is a shocking driving in this area during the day. It takes 25+ minuets to drive to Heidelberg from Viewbank at peak times. Time to build the tunnel and take the trucks off minor roads.'

'Better noise outcomes for nearby residents at night has only resulted in a concentration of heavy vehicle traffic during peak times, increasing travel times for all others. Fix it properly w. NE Link.'

'A local resident, I avoid Rosanna Rd at all costs. Far too congested; even weekends. Small lanes, huge trucks, no clearways, lanes closures due to building works. Long term thinking urgently required.'

'Better noise outcomes for nearby residents at night has only resulted in a concentration of heavy vehicle traffic during peak times, increasing travel times for all others. Fix it properly w. NE Link.'

'Government just needs to build the missing ring road link to east link and traffic through Heidelberg will dramatically ease, even heavy vehicle traffic down tulla and the current tunnels will have

a alternative route to go from the north to south east.'

'If any government was serious about traffic congestion in Melbourne, firstly build a freeway/tunnel from end on the ring road in greenborough to the eastern freeway. This will split the volume of traffic heading for the bolte bridge/tullamarine/ westgate/ tunnel interchange in half . It will completely change the dynamics of traffic and even employment opportunities for all victorians. Also put some smart thinking into more off ramps than on ramps on all major freeways, there are not enough off ramps on major roads right across melbourne from freeways which is a missed opportunity to reduce traffic congestion.'

'Darebin roads have a measured 30% increase in traffic directly as a result of these curfews. (Reference via Darebin council). So yeh, great, leafy suburbs get curfew, trucks go somewhere else.'

Not a great solution Victoads.

Give them a linked highway system to bypass suburbs and everyone will be happier. Apart from people whose houses will need to be acquired to build it of

course. But seriously, shuffling traffic around different areas and hoping nobody notices is not the solution.'

'The trucks are stopped in the Montmorency area during the night but it just makes it terrible during the day when they are all trying to get across to Ringwood. We were better off when they could drive at night. The truck traffic congestion causes a lot of traffic problems. Of course what we really need is the Ring Road connected to the Eastern Freeway.'

Noise

'Please keep the truck curfews! As residents on Rosanna Rd it has greatly improved our ability to sleep at night. Still trucks break curfew & use noisy engine brakes when not needed - who is policing?'

'As a resident, much quieter at night with the truck curfew. Prior to the truck curfew at night at 10pm you get a large amount of noise with trucks using exhaust brakes and it can easily be heard.'

'Trucks use their engine brakes excessively going south, even if the road is empty at night.'

Rosanna rd runs through a valley and the noise travels for kms affecting home not just on the road.'

'As a resident near the curfews, it has been much quieter at night.'

'I have found the truck curfews very good. The noise from the trucks was very loud even though I live quite a distance from the roads. I now sleep far better than I did. Please keep them going.'

'As a resident, truck noise has reduced overnight, no longer have large trucks shake house overnight and wake residents. Still see some trucks break curfew and drive dangerously during the day.'

'Truck noise greatly reduced overnight - no longer shaking house or waking residents. Still see some trucks breaking curfew.'

'Trucks still using their engine brakes in particular at 11pm and 5am.'

'I moved into a unit on Main Road in February; had no idea the curfew was only temporary. My bedroom is about 3 metres from the road, and a set of traffic lights. PLEASE keep the curfew.'

'Sleeping at night will be near impossible if the curfew is lifted. I live on Main Road and am woken every morning around 6am by airbrakes and speeding trucks heading past my bedroom window'

'It's much easier to sleep not hearing the engine brakes on Main Road.'

'Loving it. Now stop the hoons and the hotted up cars with doof doof music blasting at mega decibels and my sleep will be perfect!!!!'

'I love it, I get a proper night's sleep without being woken by loud engine brakes.'

'Noticeably quieter at night meaning less disruptive sleeping although trucks still occasionally defy the curfew. Rosanna Rd is so congested I deliberately avoid it at all costs either travelling by bus or using alternative round about routes. I also find a lot of truck drivers overly aggressive, intimidating and inconsiderate particularly using exhaust brakes despite signs requiring them not to use them.'

Public Transport

'Truck curfew has little impact on public transport as not many bus routes run during the curfew time. No option for bus interchange from train forcing additional car traffic on road & into carparks.'

Safety

'Beverley Road should be a permanent 40 km/h zone. It is too dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.'

'I frequently use the Bulleen road /Rossanna road route to the airport and find it very strange that trucks are not allowed to use these roads during these hours . I say this as they are well lit roads.'

'Turning right is a frightening experience when trucks are in the oncoming centre lane and pass with only inches to spare often over the centre line. I know of many people who have lost side mirrors.'

'Turning right into Banyule road is terrifying. Lanes are too narrow, trucks come pass within in cm's of vehicles in the turning lane. There is no room for error, if the truck stuffs up your dead.'

'This intersection is too narrow for trucks to travel alongside cars/

buses and pedestrians at 60km/h. slow the speeds down. The curve and grade of the road make this road dangerous and intimidating.'

'Whilst stopping at the intersection to turn right on St James Rd you are in the middle of two lanes of traffic with trucks whizzing past so fast and close to you that you your car rocks!'

'Footpath disappears and there is no clear safe path or crossing point.'

'Have seen trucks drive dangerously during the day. Drive down right turn lane at Grimshaw St then cut in front of traffic north-bound to cut onto freeway.'

'Trucks go through intersections too fast and are unable to stop for red lights.'

'We need all large trucks - especially those big scary ones with trailers (austral bricks?) - off the curvey cresty single-lane Para Rd altogether! A danger to all motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike as they hurtle around the blind bendy peaks at up to 60km/hr. At least the nights are peaceful, but come 6am it's like thunder!'

'Huge trucks charge along Para Rd from the north hitting 60km at the crest near Airlie Rd, then slam down the dip toward Main Rd. It's seriously scary for cars, cyclists and pedestrians. And SO noisy!'

'How the hell is it OK to mix B-Doubles with commuter cars at any time, let alone on a narrow road like Rosanna Rd?'

'How about the trucks start travelling in the left hand lane too and stop always clogging up the right lanes!'

Safety and pedestrians

'Very dangerous for pedestrians to cross this intersection as trucks run red lights. Trucks speeding by are extremely close to pedestrians waiting to cross.'

'We walk our dogs along here every day to get to parklands. There is no other option. Single lane Para Rd means trucks are thundering past us within a few metres of the footpath. It's extremely scary.'

'So dangerous for pedestrians. Walking along Rosanna Rd is such a risk. Have seen bins, rubbish and branches all been knocked by trucks while I am

walking close. Nearly been knocked over several times.'

'No footpath along the highway. No pedestrian access through to Watsonia station either along the highway or down to AK Lines reserve.'

'Seeing kids walking to and from the school near here is terrifying. Why this narrow road is a truck route defies logic.'

'This intersection is a disaster for pedestrians. Cars and trucks roar past you as you wait at the lights feeling like you are playing "chicken" with yours and your kids' lives.'

'Trucks don't stop for the red. It is so dangerous for pedestrians and young school kids trying to cross.'

Safety and cycling

'Trucks along single lane Para Rd are dangerous for cyclists night and day. The big ones with trailers hoon around the curvy hilly end near lower plenty like race cars and as a cyclist it's terrifying!'

'There is an excellent grade-separated bike path on the east side that DISAPPEARS with no clear alternate route or transition

to the northbound traffic. The path just disappears into mud.'

'There is a marked bike lane that just disappears (northbound). Bikes are left with nowhere to go and are forced to merge with the traffic just as it changes from 60 to 80kmh.'

'As a cyclist Rosanna rd is a complete no go zone. There is no shoulder and you continuously can run off the road by trucks or honked at by car drivers. Even on the footpath it is stupid dangerous.'

Trade

'There is no direct truck route from the Eastern Freeway to the Ring Road. The curfews have negatively affected my business. It's a logistical nightmare!!!'

'It has negatively affected my business as I am unable to gain access with the truck to the start of the Ring road during the night.'

'Trucks need to get through when the roads are quieter so then it is safer. Put up don't use air brake signs. But the curfew signs are not a good idea.'

'It was fine with the trucks. All this has done is quieten some sooks on main road and make local

businesses and hard working blokes and ladies lives harder. Without trucks OZ stops.'

'Runs an excavation business and sends a number of trucks through the area affected by the curfews. Believes curfew should finish earlier at around 5am. Lift curfew on Rosanna Rd.'

'Although the curfew reduces noise at night it is a big issue for local truck drivers who cannot leave early for work. Locals need exemptions.'

'As a driver of a work-supplied vehicle Richmond-bound 06:30-07:15 I see a lot more heavy-vehicle traffic on major roads during my commute. I therefore take a series of rat runs to bypass main roads.'

'Don't like trucks? Then stop buying stuff!!!'

'Unless you're going to subsidise/lower truckers registration to not have the same rights as every other motorist, this is def bias and unfair. Putting more pressure on truckers to do their job in less time.'

'I guess they chose out of hours for traffic and logistical reasons. I live on the main road where

these restrictions have taken place, and my life isn't any different than before.'

'The curfew is not working, where we once worked our trucks at night when the roads were empty, we are now forced to drive during daylight hours, causing more congestion on the roads and a significant increase in running costs. From a trucking perspective we always seem to be getting a rough deal. Our registration costs in most cases are 10 times more than cars, yet we are given less and less of the road to use with right lane restrictions and now night curfews.'