

# Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP  
Premier



Wednesday, 8 July 2020

## POLICE OUT IN FORCE ACROSS MELBOURNE AND MITCHELL SHIRE

Victoria Police will dramatically increase their presence in and around metropolitan Melbourne to ensure Victorians are following the most recent directions of the Chief Health Officer.

Premier Daniel Andrews today joined Minister for Police and Emergency Services Lisa Neville and Chief Commissioner of Police Shane Patton to launch an expanded version of Operation Sentinel, which will see a highly visible police presence in and around the 32 Local Government Areas with Stage 3 “Stay at Home” restrictions.

Operation Sentinel will involve state-wide resources including the Public Order Response Team, Mounted Branch, Highway Patrol and local police.

Given the scale of the task, the Victorian Government has sought the assistance of the Australian Defence Force. This will see approximately 264 ADF members assisting with on-ground operations, focusing on staging areas, planning, logistics and transport. They will also play a key role in monitoring the boundary around metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire.

Booze buses will be deployed to road stops and checkpoints to monitor traffic flow, and police will use Automatic Number Plate Recognition to scan registration details and identify the residential addresses of licence holders. Victoria Police will also have vehicle checkpoints across the state – including the main arterials to regional Victoria.

As part of Operation Sentinel, police continue to make house visits and patrol public places all over Victoria, helping to limit the spread of coronavirus.

Just as we increase our police presence, we’re also asking Victorians to follow restrictions and do the right thing. From 11.59pm on Wednesday, metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire will return to Stage 3 Stay at Home restrictions for six weeks. For Victorians living in these locations, there will only be four reasons to leave the house: shopping for food and supplies, care and caregiving, exercise, and work or study – if it can’t be done from home.

Victoria Police have undertaken 810 spot checks in the past 24 hours at homes, businesses and non-essential services across the state, and issued a total of 6,314 fines as part of Operation Sentinel. Anyone who breaches these directions faces on-the-spot fines of \$1,652 for individuals and \$9,913 for businesses.

Police are conducting checks at businesses, homes, community locations and non-essential services across the state to ensure directions are being followed. Operation Ribbon and Operation Shielding remain in place.

The community can continue to report non-urgent crime and events, as well as breaches of the Chief Health Officer’s directives, by calling the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or submitting an online report at [police.vic.gov.au/palolr](https://police.vic.gov.au/palolr).

### Quotes Attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

*“These are unprecedented measures – but so is the challenge we face. This virus is deadly and we must contain it – lives are depending on it.”*

*“The rules are clear, they’re there to save lives and police will be enforcing them across the state.”*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Police and Emergency Services Lisa Neville

*“None of us want to be in this position, but we all have to do the right thing. Our police will be out in full force across the entire state to make sure that’s happening.”*

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