



David Elliott
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW POWERS, NEW FINES AS POLICE CRACK DOWN ON NON-COMPLIANCE

Enhanced police powers and tighter new rules will spearhead the enforcement response launched against the few people who refuse to do the right thing during a global pandemic.

A new high-visibility policing operation has been launched to assist the state's health strategy to tackle the further spread of the COVID-19 Delta strain.

Thousands of police officers will be deployed across Greater Sydney from the Traffic and Highway Patrol Command, Police Transport Command and general duties to enforce the following new rules as well as protect the wider community from the selfish and unauthorised behaviour of a small number of individuals.

- New powers have been granted to the NSW Police Commissioner to shut down businesses, construction sites and public premises where there is a risk to public health; and
- The penalty for not wearing a mask where required will be increased from \$200 to \$500.

From 12.01am on Friday, 30 July 2021, residents of the eight Local Government Areas of concern (**Blacktown, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Liverpool and Parramatta**) will be subject to new exercise, mask and shopping rules. These rules will only be applied to any LGA that is determined to be of concern now and into the future:

- Exercise, outdoor recreation and singles bubble visits must be done within 5kms of the person's home;
- Individuals cannot travel more than 5kms from home for shopping, unless the goods or services are not readily available in that area; and
- Masks must be worn at all times outside the home regardless of proximity to others.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott said the new restrictions follow a call from the vast majority in the community who are doing the right thing by complying with the Public Health Orders.

“The time for warnings is over. I know 99 per cent of the population are furious with the minority who continue to disregard the health orders and put the safety and livelihoods of families at risk,” Mr Elliott said.

“Crime Stoppers received more than 15,000 calls and reports providing information following last weekend’s illegal protest. Police made it clear from the start, they want to educate – not fine – members of the community but the 15,000 calls to Crime Stoppers is a clear message to the Government that the community expects action.

“If we all work together, these new rules have the potential to stop the spread of the virus and save lives.”

NSW Police Commissioner Michael Fuller APM said police will significantly ramp up compliance activities with officers performing an extra 1000 shifts throughout the next week.

“These officers will be out in force across the Greater Sydney footprint conducting high-visibility proactive patrols and compliance checks, and responding to all Crime Stoppers reports,” Commissioner Fuller said.

“The stronger powers and police presence are about getting us out of lockdown sooner.”

For the latest information visit www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19.

To report individuals or businesses in contravention of a public health order visit <http://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>