



Anthony Carbines MP

State Member for Ivanhoe

Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

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REDEVELOPED BELL ST MALL OFFICIALLY OPENED

The Member for Ivanhoe, Mr Anthony Carbines, advises that the Bell St Mall has undergone a complete transformation thanks to a Victorian Government public safety grant. The proceedings for the official opening will take place tomorrow, 25 July, from 12:30 pm to 1 pm.

Accompanying Police Minister Wade Noonan, Mr Carbines congratulated Banyule City Council on taking action to clean up The Mall in Heidelberg West.

Banyule City Council received a Public Safety Infrastructure Fund grant of almost \$230,000 from Government, and contributed more than \$138,000 to redevelop the popular mall, which had become home to graffiti and anti-social behaviour.

“Consultation with the local residents found that encouraging people to stay in the mall rather than to just use it as a transit space, creating an events area, and improving lighting would improve the area.

Extra lighting under shop canopies and in the laneways has been added, along with new surfacing that replaces cracked and tired paving”, Mr Carbines said.

The refurbished mall also includes seating that was designed and tested with the help of local school children, and a refurbishment of the Oxford Arcade lighting boxes for commissioned artworks.

“These improvements will encourage more people to use the space at different times of the day and night, and will help deter crime and anti-social behaviour. Improving public safety is part of the Victorian Government’s commitment to crime prevention, with a \$5.8 million investment to support local communities in their crime prevention efforts”, Mr Carbines advised.

The funding will ensure that the Public Safety Infrastructure Fund continues to support councils improving areas known to attract crime.

Applications are now open for the Public Infrastructure Fund Grants with more information at: www.crimeprevention.vic.gov.au/infrastructuregrants

Quotes attributable to Member for Ivanhoe, Anthony Carbines:

“Bell St Mall is now a more appealing and vibrant space thanks to a Victorian Government Public Safety Infrastructure Fund grant, and the Banyule City Council.”

“The new lighting, upgraded landscaping and art displays will encourage more people to use the mall, deterring potential crime.”

“The community can now have more confidence in using the space with new seating and the stage encouraging more use that in turn improves natural surveillance and safety perceptions.”