



Christine Fyffe M.P. Member for Evelyn



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Government Cuts Police Support to Local Neighbourhood Watch

Local chapters of Yarra Valley Neighbourhood Watch are devastated by the Brumby Government's decision to withdraw police support from local Neighbourhood Watch committees an angry Liberal Member for Evelyn Christine Fyffe said today.

"The decision to put an end to providing street by street crime statistics is a deliberate attempt by the State Government to mask escalating crime levels and the fact we don't have enough police," Mrs Fyffe said.

Victoria Police was left to deliver the bad news to Neighbourhood Watch groups that they could no longer provide support to meetings, news which was met with disappointment and frustration. They were also told local committees will be replaced by a Yarra Ranges Shire wide safety committee.

"I am furious. With statistics no longer being provided, Neighbourhood Watch groups will only get trends information from the net and they will probably be months out of date. Residents want to know what is happening in their streets, where they live, work and go to school," Mrs Fyffe said.

"This government has come to the fork in the road on law and order, and instead of taking the road that is tough on crime, the Brumby Government has taken the path of least resistance. It is an abomination," Mrs Fyffe said.

"Nothing can effectively replace street by street crime statistic reporting. The Mount Evelyn and Chirnside Park Neighbourhood Watch groups have done a fantastic job of keeping residents informed about what was really happening in their area. It is outrageous to see the State closing down what was an open and transparent process," Mrs Fyffe said.

"With this latest Brumby Government intervention, it will be very difficult to determine where concentrations of criminal behaviour are occurring. It effectively undermines the whole point of neighbours watching out for one another," Mrs Fyffe said.

"The Brumby Government must reverse this decision and reinstate support for our community of Neighbourhood Watch volunteers immediately," Mrs Fyffe said.

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