

# David Koch

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **Calls to use latest technology in fighting crime on Geelong streets**

David Koch, Member for Western Victoria has called on Police Minister Bob Cameron to support the Geelong community in fighting street crime and anti-social behaviour by implementing the latest mobile closed circuit television (CCTV) technology.

Speaking in Parliament this week, David Koch said that many in the Geelong community have long raised concern about spiralling crime and other anti-social behaviour affecting the city centre, especially around popular night spots.

“Last week I attended a Community Safety Forum in Geelong organised by the Federal Member for Corangamite, Stewart McArthur who had invited Senator the Hon David Johnston, Federal Justice and Customs Minister to hear community concerns about crime and violence in Geelong”, he said.

David Koch told Parliament that Geelong City Council, police and community representatives discussed serious crime and safety issues affecting the CBD and the greater Geelong area.

“A positive feature of the forum was the very clear focus by all present on looking for practical ways to tackle crime and violence and to protect the safety of people enjoying the city’s night life. It was a very worthwhile opportunity for the Minister for Justice to meet prominent members of the Geelong community who have long been calling for new measures to improve night time safety.

“One way to improve safety and reduce crime in these areas is for police to use the latest technology in developing a mobile CCTV system in which footage from strategically located cameras is transmitted directly to police on patrol.

“As part of a broader safety strategy, Geelong council has submitted an application seeking almost \$500,000 of Commonwealth funding under the National Community Crime Prevention Programme to supplement the city’s CCTV camera network. I commend the Commonwealth on this very worthwhile initiative.

“The Justice Minister understands the concerns of the Geelong community and informed the forum that he would look favourably on Geelong’s funding application.

“Although Commonwealth assistance in combating crime and anti-social behaviour on Geelong city streets is most welcome, it is a travesty that the community must call on the Commonwealth because the State Government has neglected to adequately fund and resource police with the latest technology so that they can help protect citizens enjoying Geelong’s vibrant night life.

“Much has been spent by entertainment providers on in-house security, and also by the taxi industry with security staff and passenger identification, but there remains an urgent need to supplement video surveillance, along with improvements to city lighting that would enhance street safety at night.

“I call on the Minister to support Victoria Police, especially in Geelong, in providing the long overdue funding to fast-track the installation of the latest crime prevention technology,” said David Koch.

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