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Crime And Court

Bellarine CCTV pledge sees Geelong politicians join locals in their fight against crime

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ERIN PEARSON POLICE Geelong Advertiser



Bellarine locals have been pushing for CCTV in the area, with Loraine Innes, Kevin Arthurson, Leanne Stratford, Rhonda Rotherham, Ricky Stratford. Picture: Cormac Hanrahan

THE push for CCTV across the Bellarine has gained bipartisan support, with Labor and Liberal MPs working to gain funding for the cameras.

Labor's Corio MP Richard Marles has written to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull asking for funding, and Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson, a Liberal, will meet the community this month.

Bellarine residents missed out on State Government funding for the cameras last month.

Mr Marles expressed concern for a lack of funding and support for anti-crime initiatives in Greater Geelong.

He said he was in full support of cameras being installed at Drysdale following a spate crimes there this year.

“Neighbourhood Watch Drysdale and Clifton Springs have failed to secure any funding for CCTV cameras, despite a spate of burglaries and assaults taking place this year,” he wrote to Malcolm Turnbull.

“Australians have a right to feel safe and secure in their local community and the people in my community of Geelong deserve no less.”

He has asked for a review of the decision-making process and pushed for the project to be considered in the next round of grants under the Federal Government’s Safer Streets Program.

Ms Henderson said she would meet the Ocean Grove Business Association to update traders on the program.

“The next funding round of the Safer Streets Program opens within a month,” she said.

“This is a terrific opportunity to fund much-needed CCTV cameras in Ocean Grove, as well other crime hot spots.

“Just a few months ago, we saw a smash-and-grab raid in Ocean Grove which may not have occurred if CCTV cameras had been installed.”

Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine’s Leanne Stratford this week said residents would not stop their fight for the cameras.

Mrs Stratford said she hoped CCTV could help scare off would-be criminals.

It is pushing for six cameras around the Drysdale business district and boat ramp, she said.

It is estimated they would cost about \$45,000.