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Maroondah police get no joy on graffiti

NEWS > CRIME 16 JUN 09 @ 02:30PM | BY MELINDA MARSHALL



Insp Bruce Dickie at the graffiti-plastered Warrandyte Rd rail bridge. N51MM705

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TRAIN operators have ignored police pleas to remove graffiti from railway bridges across Maroondah for 18 months.

Insp Bruce Dickie said that in December 2007 he asked Connex to remove graffiti from seven bridges.

Insp Dickie said he passed photographs of the tags to Connex staff but no action had been taken.

He said the graffiti-plastered bridges had encouraged vandals to strike other areas.

"Graffiti spreads out from one place if it's not cleaned up straight away," he said. "Leaving it encourages the offenders to add more and others to mark their territory."

Connex spokesman John Rees said the train operator was not obliged to clean the bridges.

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was not obliged to clean the bridges.

"They don't fall under the actual contract and upkeep plan so we're not contractually obligated to address them," Mr Rees said. "We are working with other partners to see what we can do about removal and prevention in the future."

State Government spokesman Chris Owner said Connex was not required to clean graffiti from railway reserves unless it was considered offensive.

Bedford Rd Business Association president Jenny Newman said graffiti on the Warrandyte Rd bridge probably led to more graffiti at the nearby Bedford Rd shops, costing traders thousands of dollars a year to remove.

Maroondah Council operations and infrastructure director Trevor Welsh said Connex had advised that the Government's graffiti clean up program was already underfunded and faced further cuts.

Both Mr Rees and Mr Owner said the program was sufficiently funded.

The eight bridges of concern to police are:

New St, Ringwood

Wantirna Rd, Ringwood

Warrandyte Rd, Ringwood

Eastfield Rd, Ringwood east

Mt Dandenong Rd, Croydon

Lincoln Rd, Croydon

Canterbury Rd, Heathmont



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