



Reasons for spreading the RAGE

A LOCAL MP has encouraged the State Government to adopt the Residents Against Graffiti Everywhere (RAGE) 'how to beat graffiti' program statewide.

Eumemmerring MLC Neil Lucas took the matter to Parliament last week, convinced the program should be implemented across Victoria.

RAGE founder Steve Beardon said Mr. Lucas recognised the amount of research RAGE had done and believed the program was worthy of statewide implementation.

"You can see now in Cranbourne how much the general appearance has been improved," he said.

"Railway stations sprayed with graffiti were scaring away custom and residents... and what was most worrying is that graffiti creates an atmosphere of lawlessness."

"As the program takes off in the City of Casey, I think we will see crime drop."

Mr. Beardon said he was hopeful Parliament would adopt the program.

"I'm rapt that it's even got this far," he said.

"After just two and a half years of doing this we've got it happening in Casey, let alone the other areas that are picking it up."

"It's been a long (couple) of years. Sometimes you think no one is listening."

"It's a tough battle as a resident to get something implemented in your own area and then get it to Parliament."

Mr. Lucas asked the Minister for Local Government to review RAGE's program to combat graffiti with a view to recommending councils across Victoria.

He said he hoped local councils could pursue "similar comprehensive

graffiti abatement strategies".

Mr. Lucas commended the work of RAGE, in particular acknowledging Mr. Beardon for his hard work.

"The organisation has looked at what has been done around the world to combat graffiti and has put together a document, which it has sent to a number of local councils... (The councils) have used some of the ideas it contains to combat graffiti in their municipalities," he said.

"Councils have good records on the reduction of graffiti after taking up the programs."

The fact that RAGE has collated material from around Australia and other places, including the United States of America, is worthwhile."

"The people involved are doing a worthwhile job. Local councils should be encouraged to do more in this area."

