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Sent: Fri, 25 Mar 2022 00:19:39 +0000
To: Hamish Marquis; Mark Perry
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Subject: Targa Debrief Wednesday 30/03/22

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Hi All – hope you are well.

I haven't prepared a paper for the debrief; I don't believe it will be necessary and the discussion and minutes will document all required. Having been in the control room for the entire event I found this a very well co-ordinated & professionally run event. I assessed all incidents in line with the 21 recommendations, and found them to have been addressed.

Whilst VicPol have no issuing/approving authority or responsibility with these events, I do need to comment on issues around general public safety, and from an emergency management perspective ensure that appropriate mitigations are in place for activities that could impact public safety.

Just a heads up so no surprises - the thing I am uncomfortable with at this stage from a community safety perspective is the street is stage. I have feedback from the crews that worked same and in short:

1. It is a VERY popular stage with most Mansfield residents. This means that there is a Targa front yard party in every second home along the stage. The result is people consuming alcohol and on some occasions could make poor decisions about ducking out into the street/crossing to their mates party, or appropriately supervising kids that could wander out onto the road during a stage with no physical barriers to prevent same.
2. Concerns that a mechanical /environmental/infrastructure issue could result in car into front yard party – no physical barriers. Top speed in the street stage was 144kph, and the recommended speed limit is 50kph, which takes into account environment and infrastructure. A comment from even a very “pro Targa” long term Mansfield resident is that it is an “accident waiting to happen”

3. During the stage a couple of known track “invasions:
 - a. Outside the school – one 80 Y/O female was seen to lift the tape, walk across the closed road and along the road. No one was going to stop her getting to her church.
 - b. Unclear what road, but member of public constantly ducking under tape out onto road to take photos during stage,
4. Feedback that some of the road closures at intersections in town not being staffed, and no barricades (tape only), and that very minimal hay bale protection compared to previous years.
5. Targafest – very large crowd. Most of the time Mansfield street events go off without issue, however there appears to be a link between the motor sport crowd and consuming alcohol. This coupled with the hotels in the vicinity saw an amount of public intoxication, requiring police intervention/arrests. This event may need security in the future.

Clearly these issues are not insurmountable, just a heads up to provoke thought on solutions.

Regards
-Steve

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