



LOCAL

## Emergency services respond to two incidents at notorious Napier and Nolan Street intersection

Jul 09 2021 | Updated July 9, 2021 | 3 min read



Riley Upton

The Department of Transport will investigate the Napier and Nolan streets intersection in Maryborough after two collisions this week saw a cyclist airlifted to hospital and at least one vehicle written off.

Emergency services were called to attend a two-vehicle collision at the Maryborough intersection at around 12.30 pm on Monday, where it's believed a white Toyota Corolla was travelling along Nolan Street and failed to stop, colliding with the side of a black Holden Commodore.

Paramedics were called to the scene and assessed the single female occupants of both vehicles, with the driver of the Corolla taken to the Maryborough Hospital for observation and the p-plate driver of the Commodore treated at the scene.

Maryborough Police First Constable Danny Barker said the incident caused thousands of dollars worth of damage, writing off at least one of the vehicles, but it could have been worse, with both drivers relatively unharmed — highlighting the importance of safety features in newer vehicles.

“The female driver of the Toyota was taken to hospital by ambulance as a precautionary measure, the driver of the Commodore was fine,” he said.

“This incident does go to show the benefits of driving up-to-date vehicles with all the safety gear because it does pay off, it could have been worse.”

Another incident occurred at the same intersection at around 11.50 am on Wednesday, where a vehicle failed to give way and struck a cyclist, a woman aged in her 60s, who suffered lower body injuries.

The cyclist was flown by air ambulance to The Alfred Hospital in a stable condition, with The Alfred confirming on Thursday that she remains in a stable condition.

The intersection is no stranger to collisions, with a similar two-vehicle crash occurring in December last year due to a failure to give way and another occurring about 50 metres down the road at the intersection of Napier and Cross streets, where three vehicles were struck, again due to a driver failing to give way.

There were also two collisions just last month on June 7 at the intersection of Majorca Road and Railway Street and Barkly Street and Dundas Road on June 8, both caused after drivers did not give way.

Maryborough Police Constable Helen Wardlaw said it’s concerning to see two similar incidents occur at the same Napier Street intersection within days of each other, urging drivers to remain alert.

“It is concerning, it’s just a reminder for drivers to be more aware,” she said.

“At this point I think it’s more a case of driver behaviour at that particular intersection. There is more traffic moving through there at the moment given Inkerman Street is closed and detours are in place.

“We need drivers to be more aware of the stop signs — they’re there for a reason and drivers need to stop, look and double check before they go.”

The Department of Transport has said it will work with the Central Goldfields Shire Council to investigate the crash history at the Napier and Nolan streets intersection and will consider potential safety improvements in the future.

The Department’s acting regional director (Loddon Mallee) Sandra Wilson said road safety inspections are conducted regularly and urged road users to remain safe.

“We are always saddened to hear of any person injured on our road network — our thoughts are with those impacted,” she said.

“Everyone using the road network should be able to reach their destinations safely, which is why our crews continuously monitor the network and carry out frequent road safety inspections.

“We also urge all drivers, pedestrians and cyclists to watch out for one another on the roads.”

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