

Bus lanes infringements to be enforced

From 2 November, anyone caught parking in a bus lane or found driving in one during the hours of operation will receive a fine.

All the bus lanes along Papanui Road become fully operational on 2 November, and parts of the Main North Road route shortly after. From this date, Council enforcement officers will be issuing tickets for offences.

Council Inspections and Enforcement Manager Gary Lennan says “Drivers need to be aware that when they see the road markings for bus lanes and the signs showing they are operating, they cannot park in them or drive in them unless they are turning”.

“To date the focus has been on driver education rather than enforcement, but once the Papanui bus priority route is fully operational, the emphasis will be making sure the bus lanes are kept free of motor vehicles. Drivers need to be aware that we will start issuing fines and towing cars parked illegally”.

“We also need also to reinforce that if drivers are going to turn left into another road or property, they can travel in the bus lane for no more than 50 metres during operational hours. People need to stay in the normal traffic lane for as long as possible and may only move into the bus lane as they are nearing the intersection or property.

“The right to make a turning manoeuvre in a bus lane does not apply if you travel in the bus lane for more than 50 metres before turning.”

Cars parked in a bus lane during operational hours will be towed from the lane and owners will receive a \$60 fine and a tow fee. Drivers caught travelling in a bus lane or who enter a bus lane more than 50 metres before turning into an intersection or property when they are operational will receive a \$150 fine.

People will need to contact the Council or NZ Police if their car is towed.

Media contact: Kristi Gray 027 208 3155, 941 8779