# Machete-wielding youths cause panic at Caroline Springs days after Victoria ban



The Caroline Springs Shopping Centre in Melbourne was plunged into chaos last Friday evening when a group of boys, reportedly armed with machetes, were seen arguing inside the complex. This incident transpired just days after the Victorian government had implemented a ban on the sale of machetes, which was enacted due to rising concerns over violent crimes linked to such weapons.

At approximately 6.40 pm, the group of five to six boys drew the attention of shoppers and retailers, prompting a swift response from police. According to a spokesperson for Victoria Police, the boys fled the scene before officers arrived, leaving behind a community shaken by their reckless behaviour. Footage broadcast by Nine News captured the frantic moments as patrons scrambled to safety. Witness Pawan Kaur described the scene, saying, “I feel so scared… I just quickly go and shut the cafe and tell my other staff ‘don’t leave’.” Another bystander, Hung Nguyen, recounted seeing one of the boys pull what appeared to be a machete from his backpack, expressing disbelief at the incident unfolding before him.

Despite the panic, no injuries were reported. However, the event raised serious questions about the effectiveness of the new machete ban, initiated in response to earlier confrontations among suspected youth gangs at the Northland Shopping Centre in Preston in late May. The clash there saw a group of seven males aged between 15 and 21 brandishing such weapons, a situation that led Premier Jacinta Allan to announce that the machete ban would take effect sooner than planned, starting September 1. “In Victoria, community safety comes first. We must never let places we meet become places we fear,” Ms Allan asserted following the earlier incident.

The Victoria government’s recent measures highlight a growing concern about knife crime in the region. Just last year, in a separate incident, two men were attacked in Caroline Springs, and earlier this month, a 21-year-old man faced charges for a machete assault, indicating an alarming trend. Furthermore, calls for community involvement in combating these issues have intensified, with officials urging anyone with information or footage of the latest incident to reach out to Crime Stoppers.

As investigations into the Caroline Springs incident continue, the broader implications of knife crime in Victoria are becoming more pressing. The government aims to bolster its stance against such threats by enacting laws that not only ban machetes but also empower police to conduct searches for dangerous weapons. With much at stake, the response from the community, law enforcement, and the government will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of public safety in Melbourne.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14789699/Caroline-Springs-Melbourne-Machete-Jacinta-Allan.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.theepochtimes.com/world/machete-possession-in-victoria-could-lead-to-2-years-in-jail-or-47000-fine-5824567)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14789699/Caroline-Springs-Melbourne-Machete-Jacinta-Allan.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-12-08/police-investigate-stabbings-caroline-springs/104698890), [[5]](https://www.skynews.com.au/breaking-news/machetewielding-man-charged-as-two-rushed-to-hospital-with-serious-injuries-in-melbournes-northwest/news-story/18d258ec3bbc297ff789096f8912887a)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-11/victorian-government-bans-machetes-crime/105038872), [[6]](https://www.theindiansun.com.au/2025/03/13/machetes-out-victoria-moves-fast-to-ban-deadly-blades/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-11/victorian-government-bans-machetes-crime/105038872)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14789699/Caroline-Springs-Melbourne-Machete-Jacinta-Allan.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-12-08/police-investigate-stabbings-caroline-springs/104698890> - In December 2024, two men sustained serious stab wounds in Caroline Springs, Melbourne. The incident occurred when a group approached an 18-year-old man outside a shopping centre, assaulting him and causing significant injuries. The offenders then targeted a 22-year-old man in his vehicle, stealing his phone before fleeing. Both victims were hospitalised, and police are seeking information from the public to assist in their investigation.
3. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-11/victorian-government-bans-machetes-crime/105038872> - In March 2025, the Victorian government announced a ban on machetes as part of a broader crime reform package. This decision was in response to increased community concern over violent crimes involving machetes. The ban aims to address serious offences such as home invasions and carjackings, with further details to be released by Premier Jacinta Allan.
4. <https://www.theepochtimes.com/world/machete-possession-in-victoria-could-lead-to-2-years-in-jail-or-47000-fine-5824567> - Victoria is set to become the first Australian state to ban machetes, following a string of violent crimes involving the weapon. The decision comes a week after a high-profile home invasion in Black Rock, Melbourne, on March 4, where burglars armed with machetes stole two cars while the occupants slept. The government said it will amend the Control of Weapons Act to make machetes a prohibited weapon, effective Sept. 1, 2025.
5. <https://www.skynews.com.au/breaking-news/machetewielding-man-charged-as-two-rushed-to-hospital-with-serious-injuries-in-melbournes-northwest/news-story/18d258ec3bbc297ff789096f8912887a> - In September 2024, a 21-year-old man from Caroline Springs was charged after allegedly attacking two individuals with a machete in Melbourne's northwest. The victims, a 54-year-old man and a 24-year-old woman, sustained serious injuries and were hospitalised. The incident occurred after the man reportedly damaged cars and wielded a machete outside a residential address. The accused was arrested and faced multiple charges, including intentionally causing injury and affray.
6. <https://www.theindiansun.com.au/2025/03/13/machetes-out-victoria-moves-fast-to-ban-deadly-blades/> - Victoria is set to make history as the first Australian state to ban machetes, with the Allan Government announcing sweeping changes to curb knife crime. Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Police Anthony Carbines, alongside Acting Chief Commissioner Rick Nugent, revealed the crackdown, which includes not just outlawing machetes but also granting police stronger powers to search for weapons. From 1 September 2025, machetes will be classified as prohibited weapons, meaning their sale and possession will be illegal.
7. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-11/victorian-government-bans-machetes-crime/105038872> - The Victorian government will ban machetes across the state as part of a package of law changes aimed at stamping out serious offending, the ABC understands. The new laws — to be announced on Wednesday morning by Premier Jacinta Allan — will target serious offending, including home invasion and carjacking. Ms Allan and her government have been under pressure both politically and from the community to address such crimes.