

Barry crocker

By Karina Dunger and Dora Tsadvaridis

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THE daggy croonings of Barry Manilow and Doris Day may have driven away car hoons from a Brighton-le-Sands park but now they are driving local residents mad.

Rockdale Council in Sydney's south has been trying to control car enthusiasts at Cook Park Reserve by playing hits such as *Copacabana*, *Can't Smile Without You*, and *Que Sera Sera* through speakers.

As a hoon-reduction strategy it appears to be working but the nightly weekend performances are causing sleep deprivation among the neighbours.

"I don't know how I will cope," Moya Dunn said.

"I just can't sleep when it's on and to think there is going to be another six months of this."

Mrs Dunn and her husband John said the same music every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9pm to midnight has invaded their house.

"I came into the back room last week and I could still hear it even with the TV going," Mr Dunn said.

A couple living opposite the park who gave their names only as Peter and Ann cannot sleep until the music stops.

"It might work in shopping centres but it doesn't work here," Ann said. "It's far too loud and it's not doing its job. It's not funny because Peter can't sleep."

Now, four weeks into a six-month trial, Rockdale Council has agreed with residents' complaints and turned the volume down.

Rockdale Deputy Mayor Bill Saravinovski said complaints about the music have been mainly from residents living near the park.

"The initial reaction was that they found it irritating," he said.

"I'm not disputing what the residents are saying. I can't swallow some of the tracks like Mandy.

"We have tried to reduce the sound and we are reviewing the songs. I don't mind Barry Manilow but I'm more of an ABBA and Celine Dion fan.

Mr Saravinovski maintains giving rev-heads the Barry is a hit.

"Barry's our secret weapon. It seems to be working," he said.

"If it doesn't work I'll do a duet with Frank Sartor."

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