



MINUTES

Crime Prevention Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Monday 18 July 2022

at 4:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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6. **1. Present**

Councillor Maree Statham, Mayor; Councillor Cassandra Coleman; Councillor Daryl Goodwin (representing the Police); Councillor Stephen Lesslie; Senior Constable Crime Prevention Arna Martin; Jeff Smith, Jill Cusack and Kath Compton.

Staff

Matthew Johnson

2. Apologies

Inspector Chris Sammut and Danny Whitty

3. Declaration of Interest

Nil

ACTION

THAT the Present, Apologies and Declarations of Interest be noted.

Moved: Councillor Coleman

Seconded: Councillor Goodwin

Carried

4. Staff and Police Reports

4.1 Bureau of Crime Statistics Quarterly Report of Recorded Crime Statistics dated March 2022

Summary

A summary of the Bureau of Crime Statistics Quarterly Report of Recorded Crime Statistics dated March 2022 was discussed.

Commentary

The Bureau of Crime Statistics Quarterly Report of Recorded Crime Statistics dated March 2022 shows the following data on Lithgow Crime Incidents:

1. Trends in recorded Criminal Incidents in Lithgow LGA for major offences over the 24 months to March 2022

There were no significant trends in Lithgow crime rates during the reporting period.

2. Ratio to NSW rate (per 100,000 population) of recorded criminal incidents for 12 months to March 2022.

- Lithgow rates of sexual assault were 2.1 times the NSW rate.
- Lithgow rates of sexual touching and other sexual offences were 1.8 times the NSW rate.
- Lithgow rates of Domestic Violence related assault were 1.8 times the NSW rate
- Lithgow rates of Non- Domestic Violence related assault were 1.6 times the NSW rate
- Lithgow rates of other stealing offences were 1.9 times the NSW rate.

3. Number of recorded criminal incidents in Lithgow LGA for major offences over 12 months to March 2022 and to March 2021.

	12 months to March 2022	12 months to March 2021
Murder	0	0
Assault (Domestic Violence Related)	152	127
Assault (Non- Domestic Violence Related)	115	128
Sexual assault	39	31
Sexual touching and other sexual offences	33	42
Robbery	2	4
Break And Enter Dwelling	44	59
Break And Enter Non-Dwelling	12	31
Motor vehicle theft	22	22
Steal From Motor Vehicle	69	90
Steal From retail store	58	49
Other stealing	173	183
Malicious Damage	181	213

There was some discussion on this data, including Lithgow rates of some crimes being significantly higher than NSW wide rates and the links between this and socio-economic factors.

Police Comments

The Police representatives advised that Assault (Non- Domestic Violence Related) incidents include school assaults which are often referred to Police whereas in the past they were often dealt with by the schools.

There have been a considerable number of driving offences around schools.

There has been no upward trend in rates of alcohol related violence

Action

THAT the discussion of the Bureau of Crime Statistics Quarterly Report of Recorded Crime Statistics dated March 2022 be noted

Moved: Councillor Goodwin

Seconded: Councillor Coleman

Carried

4.2. Police Report

Summary

The Police representatives provided a report on local crime and Policing matters.

Commentary

Number of offences detected by Police in Lithgow for the June Quarter 2022 (April-June) compared to the same quarter in 2021.

	June quarter 2022	June Quarter 2021
Assaults	66	77
Break and enter	15	13
Drug detections	23	22
House fires	1	10
Goods in custody (ie receiving stolen goods)	5	2
Major traffic incidents	24	24
Malicious damage	56	47
Missing adults aged 18+	2	3
Missing youths aged 13-17	2	5
Move on directions by Police	96	104
Stolen vehicles	6	1
Steal offences	74	92
Street offences	8	6
Fraud	23	30

This data shows no significant trends compared to 2021. The Police representatives advised that in general there are no major areas of concern with crime rates in the Lithgow area. Phone scams targeting the elderly continue to be a concern. Senior Constable Arna Martin provided some Fact sheets for Council to promote, on how people can avoid these scams.

There was a discussion on the increased number of homeless people living in and around Lithgow including the CBD. This is a widespread issue across Australia, linked in part to rising rental and housing costs. The Police have been in regular touch with a number of local homeless people as well as local business owners regarding this issue however the Police have limited powers to move people on unless they are committing an offence.

Council has initiated the establishment of an interagency of organisations that works with homeless people to identify options for addressing the homeless issue. The reality is that some people are choosing to live on the street in preference to taking up housing options. Council will follow up on options for addressing community concerns around a homeless person living in Cook street Plaza.

Action

THAT The discussion on the Police Report be noted.

Moved: Senior Constable Arna Martin

Seconded: Jill Cusack

Carried

5. General Business

Police Numbers

The Police representatives advised the Committee that the complement of Police in Lithgow is currently full plus there are a number of Probationary Officers. Numbers on the ground at any time are however impacted by Covid and winter flu.

Action

THAT The discussion under General Business be noted.

Moved: Jeff Smith

Seconded: Kath Compton

Carried

6. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 4.55pm