



## MINUTES

Crime Prevention Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre  
Committee Room  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Monday 8 May 2023

at 4:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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**1. Present**

Mayor Maree Statham, Councillor Daryl Goodwin, Senior Constable Crime Prevention Arna Martin, Kath Compton and Matthew Johnson.

**2. Apologies**

Councillor Coleman, Jill Cusack and Danny Whitty

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Daryl Goodwin declared that in addition to being a Councillor he is a Police Sergeant and is representing Inspector Chris Sammut of Lithgow Police.

**ACTION**

**THAT**

The list of those Present, Apologies and Declarations of Interest be noted.

**Moved:** Kath Compton    **Seconded:** Councillor Goodwin

**4. Acknowledgment of Country**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and delivered an Acknowledgement of Country address.

**5. Vale Jeff Smith**

The Committee was very saddened to hear of the recent death of Jeff Smith who has been a well-known member of the Lithgow community and a member of the Crime Prevention Committee for many years.

**MOTION**

The Committee moved a motion of respect and thanks to Jeff Smith who was a very enthusiastic member of the Lithgow community.

**Moved:** Mayor Statham    **Seconded:** Councillor Goodwin

**6. Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the 13 February 2023 were previously ratified by committee members and reported to Council on 24 April 2023.

**6.1 Business Arising From Previous Minutes**

- List of those present: Geoff Smith's name was incorrectly recorded as Geoff Small.
- The committee discussed the need for improved lighting along Barton Avenue Wallerawang between the school and James Parade. Council has allocated funds in the Draft 2023/4 Operation Plan for footpath improvements along Barton Avenue. Matthew Johnson to investigate if lighting improvements, including solar lighting can be included in the scope of works.

## ACTION

That the discussion under Business Arising be noted.

**Moved:** Kath Compton **Seconded:** Councillor Goodwin

### 7. Lithgow Crime Statistics

#### Summary

The Bureau of Crime Statistics (BOCSAR) quarterly report dated 31 December 2022 was provided for the Committee's consideration.

#### Commentary

The BOCSAR quarterly report dated 31 December 2022 includes the following information on Lithgow:

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

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

#### 2. Ratio to the NSW rate (per 100,000 population) of recorded criminal incidents in Lithgow for the 12 months to December 2022.

This data compares the number of recorded criminal incidents in Lithgow to the NSW rate, standardised to a rate per 100,000 population.

- Lithgow rates of sexual touching and other sexual offences were 1.6 times the NSW rate.
- Lithgow rates of Domestic Violence related assault were 1.7 times the NSW rate.
- Lithgow rates of Non- Domestic Violence related assault were 1.6 times the NSW rate.
- Lithgow rates of robbery offences were 1.7 times the NSW rate.
- Lithgow rates of other stealing offences were 2.1 times the NSW rate.
- Lithgow rates of malicious damage to property offences were 1.6 times the NSW rate.

All other crime categories were not significantly different to the NSW rate.

#### 3. Actual number of recorded criminal incidents in Lithgow LGA for major offences over 12 months to December 2022, compared to December 2021.

	12 months to December 2022	12 months to December 2021
<b>Murder</b>	0	0
<b>Assault (Domestic Violence Related)</b>	152	149
<b>Assault (Non- Domestic Violence Related)</b>	127	113
<b>Sexual assault</b>	29	38
<b>Sexual touching and other sexual offences</b>	31	36
<b>Robbery</b>	8	2

	12 months to December 2022	12 months to December 2021
<b>Break And Enter Dwelling</b>	68	46
<b>Break And Enter Non-Dwelling</b>	25	10
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	35	21
<b>Steal From Motor Vehicle</b>	84	83
<b>Steal From retail store</b>	40	54
<b>Other stealing</b>	195	182
<b>Malicious Damage</b>	207	188

It was noted that BOCSAR data collection methods and crime categories vary in some cases from those of the Police.

The Committee noted that domestic violence related assaults remain persistently high, partly due to greater willingness of victims to report, more types of people reporting than in the past (eg men, children) and better and more consistent Police action in responding to DV reports.

Councillor Goodwin reported that the Police action rate in relation to domestic violence is up and that there are no outstanding warrants for DV offences.

The committee discussed the differences between robbery offences that involve violence or the threat of violence and are treated far more seriously by Police and courts than other stealing offences.

Brazen anti-social and other illegal behaviours by young people were discussed. There appears to be an Australia wide upward trends in these types of incidents.

## **ACTION**

THAT

The Lithgow Crime Statistics report be noted.

**Moved** Kath Compton **Seconded:** Senior Constable Crime Prevention Arna Martin

## **8. Police Report**

### **Summary**

A report was provided by the Police representatives on local crime and policing matters.

### **Commentary**

The following data was presented by the Police representatives:

	Number of Incidents April 2022	Number of Incidents April 2023
Break and enter	6	9
Fraud	6	7

Malicious	17	12
Damage		
Stealing	18	32

The Police advised that break and enter offences are often opportunistic with offenders gaining access to houses and garages through unlocked doors. The Police are targeting this type of offence and will forward information to Council for distribution to the community, on actions that residents and business can take to reduce the incidence of break and enter offences.

The Police representatives also spoke of “Operation Persistence” which targets warrant offenders, and proactive Policing activities which involved 14 “Move-on” and 25 person searches during April 2023.

Traffic and domestic violence activities have been a priority for Police as has the clear-up of old offences, often using DNA evidence from recent offenders.

A successful operation has been undertaken in conjunction with Bathurst Police and the RAPTOR (gang related crime) squad targeting the offenders of recent home invasions including one that occurred pre-Christmas 2022.

Police are also targeting people with unregistered firearms.

Cyber-crime continues to be a concern, not just in Lithgow, with significant numbers of small and large financial losses being reported.

## **ACTION**

THAT

The Police Report be noted.

**Moved** Councillor Goodwin **Seconded:** Senior Constable Crime Prevention Arna Martin

## **9. General Business**

The committee discussed the need for improved public lighting in Lithgow both as a community safety initiative, and to improve the amenity and night-time experience for residents and visitors, in particular in Queen Elizabeth Park and along Main Street Lithgow. The need for a lighting plan that could be progressively implemented was discussed.

The Mayor spoke of a proposed initiative in partnership with Transport for NSW to activate the Great Western Highway median strip.

**Meeting Closed at 5.00pm**