



MINUTES

Lithgow Crime Prevention Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Monday 7 August 2023

at 4:00 PM

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 4.00pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor acknowledged Wiradjuri Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation - the original custodians of the land on which the Lithgow's communities reside and extended respect to our neighbouring nations.

2. Present

Present: Mayor Maree Statham, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Lesslie, Chief Inspector Chris Sammut, Senior Constable Crime Prevention Arna Martin, Kath Compton and Jill Cusack

Officers: Matthew Johnson

3. Apologies

Danny Whitty

4. Confirmation of Minutes and matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 8 May 2023 were endorsed by two members of the Committee and reported to the Council on 22 May 2023.

ACTION

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Kath Compton

SECONDED: Inspector C Sammut

5. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest tabled.

6. Staff Reports

6.1. Local Crime Statistics

The latest Bureau of Crime Statistics (BOCSAR) quarterly report dated 31 March 2023 was provided for the Committee's consideration and includes the following information on Lithgow:

1. Trends in recorded Criminal Incidents in Lithgow LGA for major offences over the 24 months to march 2023 (page 29)

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 March 2023 (page 32)

Lithgow rates of Domestic Violence related assault were 1.7 times the NSW rate

Lithgow rates of Non- Domestic Violence related assault were 1.8 times the NSW rate

Lithgow rates of sexual assault offences were 1.7 times the NSW rate.

Lithgow rates of sexual touching, sexual act and other sexual offences were 1.7 times the NSW rate.

Lithgow rates of robbery offences were 1.6 times the NSW rate.
 Lithgow rates of break and enter dwelling were 1.5 times the NSW rate
 Lithgow rates of break and enter non- dwelling were 1.5 times the NSW rate
 Lithgow rates of steal from motor vehicle were 1.5 times the NSW rate
 Lithgow rates of other stealing offences were 2.2 times the NSW rate.
 Lithgow rates of malicious damage to property offences were 1.8 times the NSW rate.

3. Number of recorded criminal incidents in Lithgow LGA for major offences over 12 months to March 2023 and to March 2022 (Pages 35 and 38)

	12 months to March 2023	12 months to March 2022
Murder	0	0
Assault (Domestic Violence Related)	152	154
Assault (Non- Domestic Violence Related)	149	115
Sexual assault	34	38
Sexual touching and other sexual offences	32	33
Robbery	8	2
Break And Enter Dwelling	75	44
Break And Enter Non-Dwelling	29	12
Motor vehicle theft	33	22
Steal From Motor Vehicle	107	69
Steal From retail store	47	58
Other stealing	209	174
Malicious Damage	229	182

Inspector Sammut noted that the Police actively encourage the reporting of domestic violence offences and actively enforce AVO compliance which can contribute to higher rates of reported offences. There was also discussion on firearm offences and that the Police undertake home inspections of registered firearms.

ACTION

THAT The Committee note the latest BOCSAR quarterly report dated 31 March 2023.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Jill Cusack

CARRIED

2. Police Report

Inspector Sammut and Senior Constable Crime Prevention Arna Martin provided a report on local crime and Policing matters.

A comparison was given on recorded crime incidents in Lithgow for the May to July 2022 and May to July 2023 periods.

Offence	Number of offences May – July 2023	Number of offences May – July 2022
Assaults	70	67
Break and Enter	19	15
Fraud	16	29
Malicious Damage	44	49
Stolen motor vehicles	14 (10 in June and 4 in July)	6

The Police reported that levels of crime across all categories are relatively stable in the Lithgow area. There was also discussion on vandalism and other anti-social behaviours by school aged young people in Portland and Wallerawang, including around the Wallerawang skatepark and playground precinct. There are limited options for the Police to act unless they are advised at the time of the incidents and if the perpetrators are found. Matthew Johnson will contact Portland Central School to discuss any other interventions that might be attempted.

ACTION

THAT

1. The Committee note the report provided by Police representatives on local crime and Policing matters.
2. Matthew Johnson will contact Portland Central School to discuss any other interventions that might be attempted.
3. Council investigate the adequacy of existing CCTV camera coverage of the Wallerawang skatepark and playground precinct.

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Kath Compton

CARRIED

6.3. Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee was asked to review the Terms of Reference and consider ways in which the Committee can work most effectively. The Committee Terms of Reference were adopted several years ago and have not been reviewed recently. The Committee was asked to review the Terms of Reference, to consider how they might be amended and to consider how the Committee can work most effectively to advise Council on local crime prevention matters.

The committee discussed that the functioning of the Committee would be enhanced by inviting representation from organisations that form part of the adopted committee membership list but have not attended in recent times including:

- Lithgow Business Chamber
- Housing NSW
- Liquor Accord.

It was further agreed that representation be invited from Transport for NSW and/or Lithgow Railway station as well as the Department of Education.

Inspector Sammut advised the meeting that the next meeting of the Liquor Accord will be held at the Coronation Hotel Portland on Tuesday 22 August at 10.00am. Matthew Johnson will attend.

ACTION

THAT

1. The discussion of the Committee Terms of Reference be noted.
2. Invitations to attend future meetings be forwarded to Lithgow Business Chamber, Housing NSW, Lithgow Area Liquor accord, Transport for NSW, Lithgow Railway Station and the Department of Education.
3. Matthew Johnson to attend the next Liquor Accord meeting at Portland.

MOVED: Senior Constable A Martin

SECONDED: Jill Cusack

7. General Business

The Committee discussed how information can be circulated to the community reminding residents of the importance of having fully operating smoke detectors in their homes. Ideas included Council rates notices and other media. Council staff will follow up.

ACTION

That the Committee note the discussion under General Business

MOVED: Councillor C Coleman

SECONDED: Kath Compton

8. Meeting Close

Next Meeting: 4.00pm Monday 6 November 2023 in the Council Committee room

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 4.45pm