



Minutes of  
Lithgow Crime Prevention Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre  
Committee Room  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Monday 5 February 2024

at 4:00 PM

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 4:00pm.

### 1. Acknowledgement of Country

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Lithgow City Council acknowledges Wiradjuri Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation - the original custodians of the land on which the Lithgow's communities reside. The Council also extends our respects to our neighbouring nations.

### 2. Present

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Present: Mayor Maree Statham, Councillor Coleman, Chief Inspector Chris Sammut, , Danny Whitty, Glenda Anthes, Kath Compton and Jill Cusack.

Officers: Shaun Ellwood and Matthew Johnson

### 3. Apologies

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Councillor Lesslie and Senior Constable Crime Prevention Arna Martin

### 4. Confirmation of Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

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The minutes of the 7 August 2023 meeting were endorsed by two members of the Committee and reported to the Council on 28 August 2023.

#### ACTION

**THAT** the reporting of the minutes of the 7 August 2023 meeting to the 28 August 2023 Council meeting be noted.

**MOVED:** Kath Compton

**SECONDED:** Inspector C Sammut

#### Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

Matthew Johnson attended the December 2023 Liquor Accord meeting in Portland, spoke about the work of the Crime Prevention Committee, and invited a representative of the Accord to join the Crime Prevention Committee.

Lithgow Business Chamber has nominated Glenda Anthes as its representative to the Crime Prevention Committee.

### 5. Declaration of Interest

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There were no declarations of interest tabled.

### 6. Staff Reports

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## 6.1. Bureau of Crime Statistics (BOCSAR) Quarterly Report

### SUMMARY

The latest Bureau of Crime Statistics (BOCSAR) quarterly report dated 30 September 2023 was provided for the Committee's consideration.

### COMMENTARY

The Bureau of Crime Statistics (BOCSAR) quarterly report dated 30 September 2023 includes the following information on Lithgow:

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

Lithgow rates of the following crime categories trended up as follows in the 2 years to 30 September 2023:

- Domestic violence related assault 34.5%
- Break and enter dwelling rose 100%
- Motor vehicle theft 168.2%
- Steal form motor vehicle 64.2%
- Other stealing offences 27.3%

#### 2. Ratio to the NSW rate (per 100,000 population) of recorded criminal incidents in Lithgow for the 12 months to September 2023 (page 32)

- Lithgow rates of Domestic Violence related assault were 2.1 times the NSW rate
- Lithgow rates of Non- Domestic Violence related assault were 2.0 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 break and enter dwelling were 1.8 times the NSW rate.
- Lithgow rates of motor vehicle theft were 1.7 times the NSW rate
- Lithgow rates of other stealing offences were 2.3 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 September 2023 and to September 2022 (Pages 35 and 38)

	12 months to September 2023	12 months to September 2022
<b>Murder</b>	0	0

<b>Assault (Domestic Violence Related)</b>	187	139
<b>Assault (Non- Domestic Violence Related)</b>	169	117
<b>Sexual assault</b>	27	37
<b>Sexual touching and other sexual offences</b>	32	30
<b>Robbery</b>	7	5
<b>Break And Enter Dwelling</b>	90	45
<b>Break And Enter Non-Dwelling</b>	20	23
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	59	22
<b>Steal From Motor Vehicle</b>	110	67
<b>Steal From retail store</b>	61	47
<b>Other stealing</b>	224	176
<b>Malicious Damage</b>	224	197

Inspector Sammut commented that:

- Higher rates of domestic violence related assault are in part due to higher rates of reporting as victims are more willing to report assaults.
- Notwithstanding the BOCSAR data, rates of crime in Lithgow are relatively low compared to many other regional areas.

There was further discussion on a recent number of car break-ins in Extension Estate.

## ACTION

### THAT

1. The Committee note the latest BOCSAR quarterly report dated 30 September 2023.
2. Council issue a media release encouraging the community to lock their vehicles when not in use.

**MOVED:** Glenda Anthes

**SECONDED:** Danny Whitty

CARRIED

## 6.2. Police Report

Inspector Sammut provided a report on local crime and Policing matters.

### COMMENTARY

A report was given on local crime incidents in Lithgow during November and December 2023.

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Number of offences November 2023</b>	<b>Number of offences December 2023</b>
Assault domestic violence related	17	21
Assault - domestic violence and alcohol related	5	3

Offence	Number of offences November 2023	Number of offences December 2023
Assault non domestic violence related	12	14
Assault non domestic violence related and alcohol related	3	2
Breach AVO	15	12
Sexual assault	3	2
Fraud	13	10
Fail to pay	3	2
Break and Enter Dwelling	8	5
Robbery	1	0
Steal from dwelling	9	9
Shoplifting	8	0
Motor vehicle accident	11	6
Stolen motor vehicles	3	2
Steal from motor vehicle	11	5
Malicious Damage	30	31

**ACTION****THAT**

The Committee note the report provided by Inspector Sammut on local crime and Policing matters.

**MOVED:** Kath Compton

**SECONDED:** Jill Cusack

CARRIED

**6.3. Halloween 2023****SUMMARY**

The Committee discussed events that occurred at the October 28 2023 Halloween event.

**COMMENTARY**

The October 28 Halloween event was very successful with lots of positive feedback and attracted significant crowds. There was unfortunately some violence from school aged young people and underage drinking that led to some anti-social behaviours in Main Street.

Inspector Sammut reported that a number of assaults occurred, some of which were domestic violence related, and that it appears to have been planned.

Additional Police will be rostered for Halloween 2024 and discussions will be held with Council in relation to possible event format changes and to increasing the number of other security staff. It was suggested that pre-event school visits by the Police and/or event organizers be considered.

**ACTION****THAT**

The discussion of Halloween 2023 and planning for Halloween 2024 be noted.

**MOVED:** Inspector Sammut **SECONDED:** Kath Compton

CARRIED

#### **6.4. Vandalism at Wallerawang Skatepark**

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##### **SUMMARY**

The committee discussed vandalism at Tweedie Street Park Skatepark and Playground in Wallerawang.

##### **COMMENTARY**

As reported at previous meetings, there have been recurring acts of vandalism and other anti-social behaviour in this precinct. This has included vandalism of the toilets including damaging its vinyl wrapping.

Inspector Sammut advised that he would increase patrols of the area. There is currently no dedicated CCTV coverage of the skatepark and playground.

##### **ACTION**

###### **THAT**

1. The discussion on vandalism at Tweedie Street Park Skatepark and Playground in Wallerawang be noted.
2. Council investigate installation of a CCTV camera.

**MOVED:** Danny Whitty

**SECONDED:** Glenda Anthes

CARRIED

#### **7. General Business**

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##### **Sale of Vapes and Cigarettes**

Inspector Sammut advised that the sale of vapes without nicotine is legal in NSW to anyone aged over 18.

Vapes with nicotine are only legal for sale to people over 18 on prescription. Anyone who suspects that vapes or cigarettes are being sold illegally, should report this to the Police.

##### **Graffiti**

The committee discussed some recent instances of graffiti including on the Eskbank Street rail bridge mural and possibly establishing a graffiti-wall somewhere in town for spray artists to display their works.

Graffiti occurs from time to time in Lithgow but is not generally a major problem. Council promptly removes graffiti when it is reported.

##### **ACTION**

That the Committee note the discussion under General Business

**MOVED:** Jill Cusack **SECONDED:** Danny Whitty

## **8. Meeting Close**

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Next Meeting: 4.00pm Monday 6 May 2024 in the Council Committee room

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5.00pm