



# Minutes

Lithgow Crime Prevention Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre  
Committee Room  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Monday 6 May 2024

at 4:00 PM

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# ORDER OF BUSINESS

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In the absence of the Mayor and Councillor Coleman at the meeting commencement, Matthew Johnson chaired the meeting and 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: Senior Constable Crime Prevention Arna Martin, Councillor Coleman (from 4.20pm), Glenda Anthes, Kath Compton and Jill Cusack.

Officers: Shaun Elwood and Matthew Johnson

## 3. Apologies

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Mayor Maree Statham, Inspector Chris Sammut, Geoff Glynn and Danny Whitty

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

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The minutes of the 5 February 2024 meeting were endorsed by two members of the Committee and reported to Council on 26 February 2024.

### ACTION

**THAT** the reporting of the minutes of the 5 February 2024 meeting to the 26 February 2024 Council meeting be noted.

**MOVED:** Kath Compton

**SECONDED:** Glenda Anthes

### Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

**Item:** Council to issue a media release encouraging the community to lock their vehicles when not in use.

**Action:** Council staff to follow this up.

**Item:** Council to investigate installation of a CCTV system at Tweedie Park Wallerawang skatepark:

**Action:** Council has sourced a quote to install this system however this will be deferred until the new financial year when funds become available.

## 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 Local Crime Statistics

The Bureau of Crime Statistics (BOCSAR) quarterly report dated 31 December 2023 includes the following information on Lithgow:

### 1. Trends in recorded Criminal Incidents in Lithgow LGA for major offences over the 24 months to 31 December 2023 (page 29)

- The incidence of Break and Enter Dwelling offences rose 14.7%
- All other crime categories were stable

### 2. Ratio to the NSW rate (per 100,000 population) of recorded criminal incidents in Lithgow for the 12 months to 31 December 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 1.9 times the NSW rate
- Lithgow rates of sexual assault were 1.6 times the NSW rate.
- Lithgow rates of sexual touching, sexual act and other sexual offences were 1.4 times the NSW rate.
- Lithgow rates of break and enter dwelling were 1.5 times the NSW rate.
- Lithgow rates of motor vehicle theft were 1.3 times the NSW rate
- Lithgow rates of steal from motor vehicle were 1.4 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 2 times the NSW rate.

### 3. Number of recorded criminal incidents in Lithgow LGA for major offences over 12 months to 31 December 2023 and to 31 December 2022 (Pages 35 and 38)

	12 months to 31 December 2023	12 months to 31 December 2022
<b>Murder</b>	0	0
<b>Assault (Domestic Violence Related)</b>	192	151
<b>Assault (Non- Domestic Violence Related)</b>	167	129
<b>Sexual assault</b>	39	33
<b>Sexual touching and other sexual offences</b>	28	34
<b>Robbery</b>	5	8
<b>Break And Enter Dwelling</b>	78	68
<b>Break And Enter Non-Dwelling</b>	23	25
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	47	35
<b>Steal From Motor Vehicle</b>	105	84
<b>Steal From retail store</b>	62	40
<b>Other stealing</b>	215	196
<b>Malicious Damage</b>	248	209

Senior Constable Arna Martin commented that the rising rate of some crime incidents is in part a result of a greater willingness of the public to report crime:

**ACTION**

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

**MOVED:** Glenda Anthes

**SECONDED:** Kath Compton

CARRIED

**6.2. Police Report**

Senior Constable Crime Prevention Arna Martin provided a report on local crime and Policing matters. Councillor Coleman joined the meeting at 4.20pm during discussion of this item.

**COMMENTARY**

A report was given on local crime incidents in Lithgow during April 2024, compared to April 2023.

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Number of offences April 2024</b>	<b>Number of offences April 2023</b>
Assaults	22	31
Break and enter	6	7
Fraud	15	8
Malicious damage	22	16
Stealing	20	71
Stolen car	1	0

**ACTION****THAT**

The Committee note the report provided by Senior Constable Arna Martin on local crime matters.

**MOVED:** Councillor Coleman

**SECONDED:** Jill Cusack

CARRIED

**6.3. Local Crime Prevention Initiatives**

In view of recent events that have occurred elsewhere, the Committee discussed potential initiatives to address domestic/family violence and extremist and other violent behaviours.

**COMMENTARY**

Recent high-profile incidents of domestic/family violence and extremist and other violent behaviours in NSW and elsewhere have led to calls for a range of interventions and reforms to address these crimes and to improve the safety of women and children experiencing domestic and family violence in particular.

The committee discussed recent announcements by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments of various measures of assistance and other potential legislative changes to support and improve the safety of women experiencing domestic violence.

Council staff undertook to follow this matter up to determine how and when these initiatives might be available in Lithgow and how Council and the community sector can become involved. This will be reported back to the committee and will also be reported to the Community Development and Women's Advisory Committees.

### **ACTION**

THAT the Committee note the discussion on potential initiatives to address domestic/family violence and that Council staff will report back to the committee on the availability of new supports and in Lithgow.

**MOVED:** Councillor Coleman **SECONDED:** Glenda Anthes

CARRIED

## **7. General Business**

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A question was asked about university campus protests occurring in Sydney and elsewhere in support of Palestinian people and whether this is also occurring at Charles Sturt University. Senior Constable Ama Martin advised that not to her knowledge.

### **ACTION**

That the Committee note the discussion under General Business

**MOVED:** Jill Cusack **SECONDED:** Kath Compton

## **8. Meeting Close**

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Next Meeting: 4.00pm Monday 5 August 2024 in the Council Committee room

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