



Minutes

Crime Prevention Committee Meeting
Date: Monday 15 June 2020
Venue: Zoom
Time: 4:00

Lithgow Crime Prevention Committee	
Item Number	Agenda
1	Present and Apologies
2	Previous Minutes
3	Business Arising from Previous Minutes
4	BOCSAR Crime Statistics
5	Police Report
6	General Business

ITEM: 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Clr Coleman, Clr Goodwin (in Council meeting room), Kath Compton and Jill Cusack via Webex video link.

Apologies: Danny Whitty, Jeff Smith and Sue Rose

Officers: Matthew Johnson

Declaration of Interests: nil

ACTION

THAT the Present and Apologies and Declarations of Interest be noted

MOVED: Clr Goodwin **SECONDED:** Kath Compton

ITEM: 2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

SUMMARY

The previous minutes from 2 December 2019 were endorsed by three members present and were reported to Council on 29 January 2020.

ACTION

That the reporting of the previous minutes to Council on 29 January 2020 be noted.

MOVED: Clr Goodwin **SECONDED:** Kath Compton

ITEM: 3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

NIL

ITEM: 4 BOCSAR CRIME STATISTICS

SUMMARY

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) Crime Trends Statistics were provided for the committee's consideration.

COMMENTARY

The most recent BOCSAR crime trends report to March 2020 shows the incidence of various offences as follows:

Lithgow Trends in violent and property offences over the 60 months to March 2020 (page 13)

- Violent offences - 6% average per annum increase over last 5 years
- Property offences – 27.6% average per annum increase over last 2 years

Lithgow Trends in recorded criminal incidents for major offences over the 24 months to March 2020 (page 27):

- Domestic Violence related assault - up 14.2%
- Break and enter non dwelling - up 74.2 %
- Steal from Motor vehicle - up 56.4%
- Steal from retail store – up 47.7%

Ratio of Lithgow rate to NSW rate of recorded criminal incidents per 100,000 population over 12 months to March 2020. Only incidents with significant variations shown. (Page 29)

- Sexual assault – Lithgow rate was 2.3 times the NSW rate
- Break and enter non dwelling – Lithgow rate was 2 times the NSW rate
- Steal from dwelling - Lithgow rate was 2 times the NSW rate

Actual Number of recorded criminal incidents for major offences over 12 months to March 2020 and also March 2019 (pages 31 and 33)

Criminal incident	Actual number 12 months to March 2020	Actual number 12 months to March 2019
Domestic violence related assault	121	106
Non- Domestic violence related assault	119	128
Sexual assault	39	23
Indecent assault	28	34
Robbery without a weapon	1	1
Robbery with a firearm	0	0
Robbery with a weapon not a firearm	2	0
Break and enter dwelling	74	70
Break and enter non dwelling	54	31
Motor vehicle theft	51	37
Steal from motor vehicle	86	55
Steal from retail store	65	44
Steal from dwelling	101	72
Steal from person	5	7
Fraud	148	152
Malicious damage to property	241	218

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It was noted that the next quarterly BOCSAR report will show data for the Covid 19 lockdown period of April, May and June and it is expected that there will be reductions in Alcohol Related Crime but significant increases in Domestic Violence Related Assaults.

ACTION

THAT The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) Crime Trends Statistics to March 2020 be noted.

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

ITEM: 5 POLICE REPORT

SUMMARY

Clr Goodwin provided a report on local crime and policing activities.

COMMENTARY

For the 3 months March, April and May 2020 there were 50 recorded domestic violence related assaults in the Lithgow command. This compares to 121 for the full 12 months to March 2020 shown in Item 4 above and suggests a significant spike related to Covid 19 lockdowns. There were a further 18 Breach AVO offences and 60 Domestic Violence Reported but No Action Taken incidents (eg where Police are unable to substantiate the offence) during the same 3 months. Less Alcohol Related crime (other than related to Domestic Violence) has been observed by Police and will be confirmed in next crime report.

Covid 19 has also led to there being more Police available for general duties due to Police training courses being cancelled and less court appearances which normally take Police off the street. There have been 6 general duties Police Officers available during this time, up from the usual 4.

There has been an increase in public use of the Newnes Plateau area since Covid 19 restrictions have been eased. The Police are moving people on wherever possible and signage will be installed at each entrance warning of applicable offences. There have also been reports of firearms use after dark which Police are investigating.

The Committee asked Clr Goodwin to pass on its thanks to the Police for the valuable work they have been doing during this difficult time.

To date, there have been no Black Lives Matter protest activities in the Lithgow area.

ACTION

THAT The report on local crime and policing activities be noted.

MOVED: Clr Goodwin **SECONDED:** Jill Cusack

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ITEM: 6 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

Meeting Closed 4.53pm