

Crime Prevention Plan

Lithgow City Council

May 2010



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1. INTRODUCTION

The development of a Crime Prevention Plan (CPP) for Lithgow was an identified action in Council's 2006-11 Social Plan and 2007/08 Management Plan. Community consultation on the plan commenced towards the end of 2007/08 and continued into 2008/09. Council has undertaken the development of the plan in response to widespread concerns within the community about crime rates in the Lithgow community and a desire by Council to take a lead role in the development and implementation of crime prevention strategies.

The Lithgow Crime Prevention Plan has been developed using:

- Crime Data from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research.
- Demographic data from the ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006.
- Information from community consultations, consultation with key agencies in Lithgow and correspondence from the greater Lithgow community.

Through development of the Crime Prevention Plan, Lithgow City Council has gained a better understanding of community safety concerns and has begun to build partnerships with the community and other key agencies. Draft Strategies, or Action Plans, have been identified in relation to crime issues that are having the most impact on the community.

These Draft Action Plans will be further refined through consideration by the Crime Prevention Committee and consultation with key local agencies. Council will then seek endorsement of these strategies by the NSW Attorney General's Department as a Safer Community Compact. Once endorsed, Council will be able to seek funding from the Attorney General's Department to implement strategies in this CPP.

Strategies in this CPP will also be considered in future Council Management and Operational Plans.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

Crime Data

Data from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research was analysed to gain an understanding of the level and nature of crime in Lithgow. This data is presented in Section 5.

Consultations

13 community consultations were held in Lithgow and surrounding areas from June – August 2008. A summary of these consultations is presented in Section 6.

Agency Consultations

Consultations were held from November 2008 to March 2009 with a number of key agencies in Lithgow including the Lithgow Business Association, Lithgow Police, Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre, Lithgow Community Health Centre, Lithgow Railway Station and Lithgow Valley Plaza Management. A summary of these consultations is presented in Section 6.

2. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A number of organisations and individuals contributed to the development of this Crime Prevention Plan. Council appreciates their time, commitment and effort during this process:

Lithgow Business Association
Lithgow Police
Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood Centre
Lithgow Community Health Centre
Lithgow Railway Station
Lithgow Valley Plaza
La Salle School
Wallerawang School
Portland Central School
Rydal Mount
Lithgow Library Learning Centre

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Crime Data

Rates of criminal incidents in the Lithgow LGA are in some cases, significantly above the NSW average and the average of a number of Central West LGA's.

In particular, Lithgow stands out in relation to crimes against the person, including:

- domestic violence related assault and,
- non-domestic violence related assault
- rates of malicious damage to property in Lithgow are also well above the NSW average.

Incident rates in Lithgow are in some cases increasing, against the trend of NSW as a whole and a number of other Central West LGA's.

Community and Agency Consultations

Recurring themes during the consultations were:

Alcohol Related Violence

Alcohol related violence and other behaviours, particularly in Main Street Lithgow, were a recurring theme.

Malicious Damage and Harrassment

Concerns raised by the general community in relation to young people and by young people themselves including:

- Violence
- Vandalism
- Street bullying

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence was cited on a number of occasions including during the Indigenous consultations.

Crime Prevention Strategies

This Crime Prevention Plan identifies a number of strategies for action:

Establish a Crime Prevention Committee

With membership from key local organisations, including business, the Police and the community, the Crime Prevention

Committee will implement crime prevention strategies and build on the partnerships that have already developed to, over time, develop and implement further crime prevention strategies.

Alcohol Related Violence and Related Behaviours

This strategy involves developing a strong partnership between licensed premises, Lithgow Liquor Accord, Police, Crime Prevention Committee, the local community and local business to address alcohol related violence and related issues in the Lithgow CBD.

Malicious Damage and Harrassment

Targeting underage drinking, vandalism, harassment, street bullying and gang behaviours.

This is a multi-pronged strategy which aims to target the underlying causes and manifestations of youth alienation in the Lithgow local government area.

Domestic Violence

The strategy will build partnerships between the Crime Prevention Committee, Council, schools, business, licensed premises and organisations that work with domestic violence victims to develop a social marketing campaign and other initiatives targeting Domestic Violence.

4. LITHGOW'S SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

The Lithgow LGA covers approximately 4 551 square kilometres and covers the area from Little Hartley in the East, Hampton-Tarana in the South, Meadow Flat in the West and Capertee and Wolgan Valley in the North. The Lithgow LGA is bordered by six other Local Government Areas - Bathurst Regional LGA in the West, Mid Western Regional LGA in the North West, Singleton LGA in the North East, City of Hawkesbury LGA in the East, City of Blue Mountains LGA in the South East and Oberon LGA in the South West. Approximately two thirds of the Lithgow LGA is National Parks or State Forests.

Lithgow is at the western terminus of the Cityrail network and in many respects the border between Sydney and Western NSW.

The 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census showed that:

- The population of Lithgow LGA was 19 756. This represented 11.6% of the population of the Central West region and 0.3% of the population of NSW.
- Population growth is low. The population of Lithgow LGA increased by 559 people or 2.9% to 19 756 between 2001 and 2006. In the same period, the NSW population increased by 8.7%.
- The numbers of children are falling. There were 2 988 children aged 0-11 years - 15.1% of the total population. There was a decline between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses, in both number (421) and proportion (2.2%) of children.
- There were a total of 3 207 young people, representing 16.2% of the total population. There was a small decline from 3 231 or 16.3% at the 2001 Census.
- The population of Lithgow is ageing. The number of older people aged 55 - 64 years increased by 940 people or 56% in the period 1996 – 2006. The number of people aged 65 years and over increased

by 617 people or 27% in the same period.

- There were 606 indigenous people which represented 3.1% of the total Lithgow population. Lithgow had a higher percentage of indigenous people than NSW (2.1%) as a whole but a lesser percentage than the Central West region (4.5%).
- Lithgow LGA had a significantly higher percentage of Australian born residents (85.2%) than NSW as a whole (69.0%), but a lesser percentage than the Central West Region (88.0%).
- Almost 92% of Lithgow residents spoke English only at home compared to 74% in NSW as a whole.
- Lithgow LGA's unemployment rate of 8.5% was significantly higher than both NSW as a whole (5.9%) and the Central West (6.3%). Labour force participation in Lithgow (53.1%) was significantly less than both NSW (58.9% and the Central West region (58.2%).
- Lithgow LGA had a less mobile population than both NSW as a whole and the Central West with almost 60% of Lithgow residents living at the same address 5 years before the 2006 census compared to 55.0% in NSW as a whole.
- Incomes were relatively low.
 - The median income of Lithgow individuals was \$353 per week. This was about 23% less than the NSW median individual income of \$461 per week and 9% less than the Central West region median individual income of \$389 per week.
 - The median income of Lithgow families was \$1 026 per week. This was about 13% less than the NSW median individual income of NSW of \$1 181 per week and 2.5% less than the Central West region median individual income of \$1 053 per week.
 - The median income of Lithgow households was \$738 per week. This

was about 29% less than the NSW median individual income of NSW of \$1 036 per week and 9% less than the Central West region median individual income of \$808 per week.

- Lithgow residents completed school at lower levels than both NSW and the Central West region. 22.5% of Lithgow residents completed year 12 compared to NSW (42.4%) and the Central West region (29.6%).
- Lithgow residents had significantly lower rates of tertiary qualification compared to NSW and the Central West region. 13.5% of Lithgow residents have either a Bachelor Degree, Graduate Degree or Postgraduate Degree compared to NSW (30.2%) and the Central West region (19.8%).
- The most common areas of employment for persons 15 years and over in the Lithgow LGA were coal mining 9.1%, Cafes, Restaurants and Takeaway food Services 4.4%, School Education 4.1%, Public Order and Safety Services 3.4%, Electricity Generation 3.0%.
- Lithgow is a relatively disadvantaged community.

- **The ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage** is a continuum of advantage (high values) to disadvantage (low values) which is derived from Census variables related to both advantage and disadvantage, like household with low income and people with a tertiary education.

This index placed the Lithgow LGA, compared to all other NSW LGA's, in the 3rd decile of advantage and disadvantage. This means that the Lithgow LGA is in the 20-30% lowest LGA's in NSW on this index. Lithgow had the 35th ranking of all LGA's in NSW meaning that there were 34 other LGA's that had a lower index than Lithgow.

- **The SEIFA index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage** is derived from Census variables related to disadvantage, such as low income, low educational attainment, unemployment, and dwellings without motor vehicles.

This index placed the Lithgow LGA, compared to all other NSW LGA's, in the 2nd decile of disadvantage. This means that according to the index, the Lithgow LGA is among the 10-20% most disadvantaged LGA's in NSW. Looked at another way, Lithgow LGA had the 28th ranking for most disadvantaged LGA's in NSW. There were only 27 other LGA's in NSW that were more disadvantaged than Lithgow.

- **The SEIFA index of Economic Resources** focuses on Census variables like the income, housing expenditure and assets of households.

This index placed Lithgow in the 2nd decile of this index and 28th ranking compared to other NSW LGA's.

- **The SEIFA index of Education and Occupation** includes Census variables relating to the educational and occupational characteristics of communities, like the proportion of people with a higher qualification or those employed in a skilled occupation.

This index placed Lithgow in the lowest decile, that is among the lowest 10% of all NSW LGA's. Lithgow's ranking is 5th, meaning there are only 4 other LGA's in NSW with a lower ranking on this index.

4.1 HEALTH STATUS

Morbidity and Mortality data collected and reported by Sydney West Area Health Service Centre for Epidemiology, Indicators, Research and Evaluation (2005) show that the Lithgow LGA faces a number of serious health issues.

Morbidity data in this summary is largely taken from separation rates from hospitals in the Lithgow LGA for the three year financial period 2000-2003 (which in turn is taken from patient episode based data collection by NSW Health).

The Lithgow LGA has significantly higher hospital separation rates than the NSW average or Sydney West Area Health Service (SWAHS) average. Standardised rate ratios calculated by SWAHS indicate that the Lithgow LGA has hospital separation rates 26% higher than the average for NSW.

Significantly higher hospital separation rates for the Lithgow LGA than the NSW average are identified by SWAHS for: all cancers, cerebrovascular disease, ischemic heart disease, acute myocardial infarction, all injury, asthma, and diabetes.

Asthma and diabetes hospital separation rates are particularly high in relation to the NSW averages with asthma rates 80% higher than the NSW rate and diabetes rates more than 100% higher than the NSW rate.

Mortality rates for the Lithgow LGA, measured by the ABS, also indicate health concerns. Average annual rates for all causes of death for the period 2000-2002 indicate the annual death rate for the Lithgow LGA is more than 30% higher than NSW and significantly higher than the remaining LGA's within the SWAHS boundaries. For males the rate is 25% higher than the NSW male rate, and for females the rate is 40% higher than the NSW female rate.

Premature death rates, which is one of the most important indicators for the health of a community according to SWAHS, also indicate concern for the health status of the population of the Lithgow LGA. The

premature death rate for the Lithgow LGA (which measure rates of death occurring before the age of 75 years) is 32% higher than the NSW rate.

NSW Health survey data indicates significantly elevated rates (compared with both rural and urban area health data) for smoking; overweight and obesity; inadequate physical activity; and poor general health. The report indicates an elevated rate of risk drinking (compared with urban but not rural rates) but not high risk drinking.

5. CRIME DATA

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research produces data on recorded criminal incidents over time by crime type, local government area (LGA) and premises type.

Recorded Criminal Incidents by LGA

This data compares Lithgow LGA to a selection of Central West LGA's and the NSW average.

The number of incidents shown refers to incidents per 100,000 population. Lithgow's population is approximately 20,000 so the number of actual incidents in Lithgow is approximately 20% of the 100,000 incident rate.

Local Government Area Rankings

This data compares Lithgow to the other 141 LGA's in NSW with populations over 3,000 people in 2008. The lower the LGA Ranking Number, the higher the number of incidents of a particular crime per 100,000 population.

Locations of Incidents

This 2007 data is based on actual recorded criminal incidents by premises type and assists in identifying where particular crimes are taking place.

Crime Maps

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research has also produced a 2007 Local Government Area Crime Report Series for Lithgow which provides data on recorded crime in Lithgow by time of day, day of the week and month of the year. The 2007 Local Government Area Crime Report also includes a Hotspot Map (not shown in this Crime Prevention Plan) showing where incidents are most likely to occur. The 2007 Local Government Area Crime Report is based on recorded crime rates for 2007 only so care should be taken in generalising this data to other years.

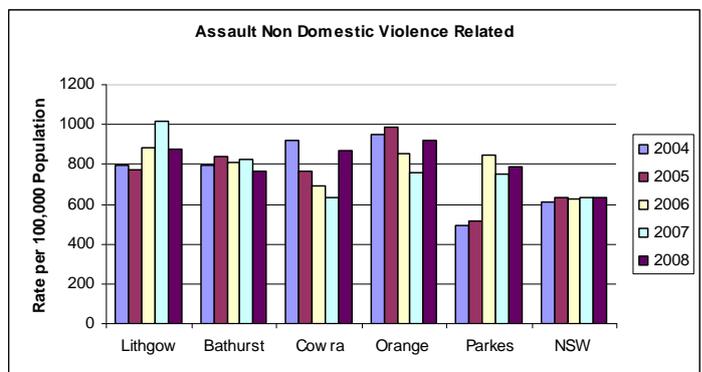
5.1 Assault - Non- Domestic Violence Related

Table 1 shows that rates of non-domestic violence related assault in Lithgow increased steadily between 2004 and 2008 with incidents per 100,000 of population rising from 795 in 2004 to 879 in 2008. Incidents in Lithgow exceeded the NSW average in each of these years.

In 2006 and 2007, incidents in Lithgow exceeded all of the other Central West LGA's shown.

Lithgow's LGA ranking in 2008 was 28.

Table 1



Location of Incidents

Of the 211 actual incidents of non-domestic violence related assault that occurred in Lithgow LGA in 2007, 97 incidents occurred in outdoor public places (44.3% of the total), 45 incidents occurred in residential dwellings (20.5% of the total) and 29 incidents occurred in licensed premises (13.2% of the total).

In the period 2003 – 2007, outdoor premises were the most likely location for non-domestic violence related assault, followed by residential dwellings and licensed premises. The percentage of incidents in each of these premises types did not vary greatly over these years.

The percentage of incidents in education facilities during the period 2003-2007 generally remained within the range of 5-6% of the total incidents which was a little less than half the rate of licensed premises.

2007 Crime Series Report Data

During 2007 there were considerable monthly variations in rates of non-domestic violence related assaults. Rates were highest in February followed by August, September and then January.

The percentage of assaults were highest between midnight Friday and 6am Saturday and midnight Saturday and 6am Sunday. Almost 40% of all assaults during the week occurred between 6pm Friday and 6am Saturday and 6pm Saturday and 6am Sunday. 25% of all assaults during the week occurred between midnight and 6am on Saturday and Sunday.

The Hotspot Map shows that non-domestic violence related assault was most likely to occur in the Lithgow Central Business District and the Bowenfels area.

The 2007 Crime Series report also provides data on alcohol related assaults. Almost 30% of all alcohol related assaults during 2007 occurred in September and February. The next most prevalent months were August and December. Further, 35% of all alcohol related assaults occurred between 12 midnight and 6am on Friday and Saturday nights.

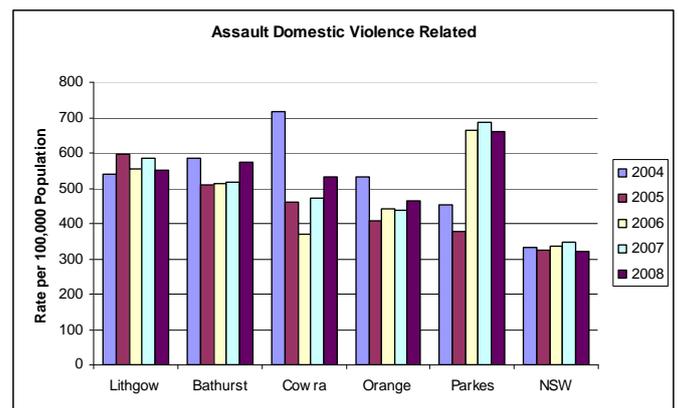
The Hotspot Map shows that alcohol related assault was most likely to occur in the Central Business District of Lithgow.

5.2 Assault - Domestic Violence Related

Table 2 shows that rates per 100,000 population of domestic violence related assault in Lithgow remained fairly steady between 2004 and 2008 at between 500 and 600 per 100,000 population however they were well above the NSW average in each of these years and since 2005 exceeded most of the Central West LGA's shown.

Lithgow's LGA ranking in 2008 was 34.

Table 2



Location of Incidents

Of the 121 actual incidents of domestic violence related assault that occurred in Lithgow LGA in 2007, 99 incidents occurred in a residential dwelling (81.8% of the total), 13 incidents occurred in an outdoor public place (10.7% of the total) and 6 incidents occurred in licensed premises (5.0% of the total).

These percentages did not generally change significantly during the period 2003 – 2007 although there was a significant percentage increase in 2006 and 2007 in the number of incidents occurring in licensed premises.

2007 Crime Series Report Data

Almost 30% of domestic violence assaults during 2007 occurred in January and December. The next most prevalent months for this crime were February and May. Rates were lowest in June and July.

Rates of domestic violence assault were highest from midnight Friday to 6am Saturday and again from 6pm to midnight Saturday. Rates were also above average during the period 6pm to midnight on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday nights.

The Hotspot Map shows that domestic violence related assault was most likely to occur in the Central Business District of Lithgow and the Bowenfels area.

5.3 Malicious Damage

Table 3 shows that rates of malicious damage in Lithgow LGA increased fairly steadily from 2 026 incidents per 100,000 population in 2004 to 2 812 in 2008 and in each year well exceeded the NSW average.

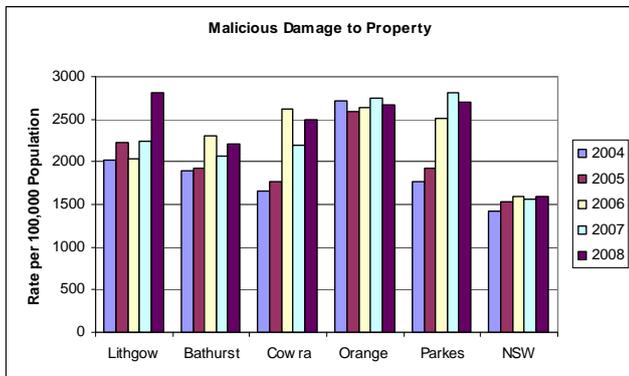
Lithgow's LGA ranking in 2008 was 8.

Location of Incidents

In 2007, the most likely locations of malicious damage incidents (46.8% of the total) were residential dwellings (including incidents on the outside of the dwelling) followed by outdoor/public spaces (13.1%) and retail/wholesale facilities (10.6%). 9.3% of incidents occurred in schools.

These percentages did not generally change significantly during the period 2003 – 2007 although there was a significant percentage increase from 6.5% of the total in 2003 to 9.3% of the total in 2007 in the number of incidents occurring in educational facilities.

Table 3



2007 Crime Series Report Data

Malicious damage to property incidents during 2007 were most likely to occur in January followed by April, May and June.

Malicious damage to property incidents were most likely to occur between 6am and midday on Tuesday and Saturday.

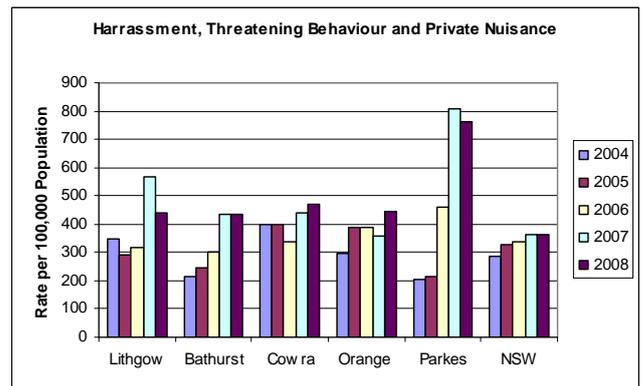
The Hotspot Map shows that malicious damage to property incidents were most likely to occur around the Central Business District of Lithgow.

5.4 Harrassment, Threatening Behaviour and Private Nuisance

Table 4 shows that rates of Harrassment, Threatening Behaviour and Private Nuisance in Lithgow LGA remained fairly steady between 2004 and 2006 although there was a spike in 2007 to 570 incidents. Rates in 2007 and 2008 were above the NSW average.

Lithgow's LGA ranking in 2008 was 58.

Table 4



Summary

The preceding data shows that the rates of criminal incidents in the Lithgow LGA are in some cases, significantly above the NSW average and the average of a selection of Central West LGA's.

In particular, Lithgow stands out in relation to crimes against the person, including Domestic Violence Related Assault and Non-Domestic Violence Related Assault. Rates of Malicious Damage to Property in Lithgow are also well above the NSW average.

Moreover, incident rates in Lithgow are in some cases increasing, against the trend of NSW as a whole and the other selected Central West LGA's shown. Rates of Non-Domestic Violence Related Assault in Lithgow increased almost every year between 2004 and 2008 while in NSW and the other LGA's shown, rates either remained steady or fell.

Rates of Domestic Violence Related Assault in Lithgow remained steady but high in Lithgow between 2004 and 2008 whereas in most of

the Central West LGA's shown and NSW as a whole, rates remained steady or fell.

Malicious Damage to Property rates have been increasing in Lithgow and the other Central West LGA's shown as well as NSW as a whole. Rates in Lithgow still remain consistently higher than the NSW average.

Rates of Harrassment, Threatening Behaviour and Private Nuisance have increased since 2007.

Sources

Tables 1 - 4 Recorded Criminal Incidents by LGA: *NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research Recorded Criminal Incidents by LGA 2004 – 2008 from the Local Government Area Ranking Tool 2008.*

LGA Rankings *NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research Local Government Area Ranking Tool 2008.*

Locations of Incidents *NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research Specific Crime Information Tool 2003 - 2007.*

Time and Location Hotspots of Crime Incidents
NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research Local Government Area Crime Report Series for Lithgow 2007

6. CONSULTATIONS

Community Consultations

13 Consultations were held in Lithgow and surrounding townships from June to August 2008. These consultations were facilitated by Council's Community Development Officer and Cultural Development Officer.

The following groups were consulted in the preparation of this Crime Plan:

- Indigenous Community
- Youth
- General Community Members
- People living with a Disabilities
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)

Recurring themes during the community consultations were:

Alcohol Related Violence

Alcohol related violence and other behaviours, particularly in Main Street Lithgow, were a recurring theme. The late night/early morning closing time of local pubs was seen as a large contributor to these behaviours.

Concerns included:

- street vandalism
- public nuisance
- harassment
- fights

Malicious Damage

A number of issues were raised by the general community in relation to young people and by young people themselves.

Concerns included:

- Violence
- Vandalism
- Street bullying

Police Presence

There was concern expressed about the perceived level of a Police presence across the City of Lithgow.

This was a concern in relation to late night and alcohol related behaviours in particular.

The need for foot patrols in high activity areas, including Main Street after-hours was raised a number of times.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence was cited on a number of occasions including during the Indigenous consultations.

More detail on the community consultations is included in the appendices.

Agency Consultations

Consultations with a number of key agencies highlighted a number of areas of concern and confirmed information obtained from crime data and community consultations.

- Alcohol related violence was a major concern with Friday and Saturday nights being the worst nights of week.
- Intoxicated persons leaving pubs in the early hour causing fighting, swearing, anti-social behaviours and malicious damage.
- Concern that Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) requirements are not being observed.
- The apparent mismatch between the times when alcohol related violence occurs and the level of Police presence.
- The need for Beat Police in the Lithgow CBD.

Young people

- The need for positive pathways for young people outside of school hours, including teenage mentoring programs.
- Importance of engaging with young people through eg school programs.
- Using Community Service Orders as a strategy for addressing youth crime and other anti-social behaviours.
- The significant number of at risk young boys aged 13-14 who have been suspended from school.
- The need for good role modelling by parents and others.
- The need for training programs and apprenticeships and other courses through TAFE.

7. STRATEGIES

7.1 Crime Prevention Committee

The development of this Crime Prevention Plan (CPP) has been a ground-breaking and important exercise for Council. The CPP includes important data and other information for Council, other agencies and the community to begin the process of implementing strategies to address crime issues across the Lithgow area. In developing the Crime Prevention Plan, Council has started to build partnerships with key local agencies which will need to be involved if crime prevention strategies are to be effective. Community awareness of crime and the Crime Prevention Plan have also been raised considerably during the consultation process.

Once the CPP is adopted by Council and placed on public exhibition for comment, Council will establish a Crime Prevention Committee with membership of key local organisations, including business, the Police and the community to implement strategies in relation to crime issues identified in the CPP. The Crime Prevention Committee will build on the partnerships that have already developed to, over time, develop and implement further crime prevention strategies.

From the work undertaken to date in developing the CPP, three areas have been identified as a priority:

- Assault Non-Domestic Violence Related
- Malicious Damage and other anti-social behaviour
- Assault Domestic Violence Related

Draft Actions Plans have been developed in relation to these three priority areas. These Draft Action Plans will be further refined by the Crime Prevention Committee and through consultation with key local agencies. Council will then seek endorsement of these strategies by the NSW Attorney General's Department as a Safer Community Compact.

7.2 Assault Non-Domestic Violence Related Action Plan

Target Offence

Assault Non-Domestic Violence Related with a focus on alcohol related violence including malicious damage and anti-social behaviour.

Project

This project involves developing a strong partnership between licensed premises, Lithgow Liquor Accord, Police, Crime Prevention Committee, the local community and local business to address alcohol related violence and related issues in the Lithgow CBD area. Elements of the project will be:

- **Alcohol Sale and Consumption** - working with licensees, their staff and customers to build understanding of and commitment to Responsible Service of Alcohol obligations and promote safe and healthy drinking practices including how to safely finish the night and how to get home safely. Building the awareness and commitment of licensees to protecting the welfare of their customers and the general community once they leave the licensed premises. Seeking the commitment by licensees to review opening hours.
- **Transport** – building on the existing Secure Taxi Rank that operates on Friday and Saturday nights in Lithgow, initiate safe and practical ways of dispersing hotel patrons quickly from the CBD areas including Get Home Safely Taxi Voucher programs.
- **Design and Use of Public Places** – the majority of after-hours economic and visitor activity in the CBD areas is in licensed premises. For this reason, many people consider the CBD's to be unsafe. The project partners will work with Council to:
 - Improve lighting in and around the CBD areas.
 - Identify areas of high risk and promote safe pathways to transport nodes including taxi rank and railway station. This will be undertaken in conjunction with Council's Pedestrian Access and Mobility Study.
 - Encourage the development of a greater range of after-hours economic activity in the CBD areas to attract a wider range of visitation and use.

Rationale

Alcohol related violence and related behaviours have been a major concern to Council, the business and general communities for a long time.

Crime data shows that rates of non-domestic violence related assault in Lithgow increased steadily between 2003 and 2007 and regularly exceeded the NSW average.

There was also a striking spike in 2007 in the percentage of assaults between midnight Friday and 6am Saturday and midnight Saturday and 6am Sunday.

Around one third of alcohol related assaults occurred between 12 midnight and 6am on Friday and Saturday nights.

Alcohol related assault was most likely to occur in the Central Business District of Lithgow.

Not all assaults are alcohol related, however the crime data and the often repeated concerns of the community and other agencies clearly indicate that Lithgow has a significant problem in this

area. There is a widespread perception that late night closing is a major contributor to violence and other anti-social behaviours.

Underage drinking was highlighted as a problem during the consultations and seen as a contributor to violence, anti-social behaviours violent/offensive behaviours including malicious damage in Main Street Lithgow.

Concerns were raised during community consultations that Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) requirements be followed.

There have been some concerns raised about the need for Police presence at night to be appropriate to ensure community safety although night time policing levels have increased, particularly on weekends.

The effect of these behaviours is to reduce the quality of life and sense of safety of local people and discourages them from visiting the Main Street Lithgow area after hours as it is widely considered to be unsafe. This provides a disincentive for local business to expand the range of restaurants and other entertainment opportunities, to the detriment of the local economy.

Some initiatives have occurred to address this issue including 1am lockouts, a secure taxi rank on Friday and Saturday nights and initiatives by liquor licensees. The strategy detailed in this action plan will build upon these initiatives.

Lead Agency and Partners

Lithgow City Council Crime Prevention Committee in association with the Lithgow Liquor Accord and other licensees, Lithgow business, Lithgow Police and the general community.

Objectives

Project objectives will be to achieve significant and measurable improvements in relation to alcohol related crime, according to BOCSAR crime data, Police data and data from local business:

- Reduction in the number of alcohol related assaults in licensed premises and public places.
- Reduction in malicious damage and anti-social behaviours.
- Increase in the level of after-hours visitors and families to the Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland CBD areas.

Expected Outcomes

Anticipated outcomes of this strategy are:

- A reduction in excessive and inappropriate alcohol consumption in and around licensed premises.
- Promotion of responsible service and consumption of alcohol.
- An ongoing partnership between Council, licensed premises, the Police and other relevant agencies.
- A reduction in assaults and other anti-social behaviours in the Lithgow CBD.
- Lithgow CBD area being a safe, pleasant and family friendly location for after-hour visitors.

Performance Measures

The following will be used to measure if the project has achieved its objectives:

- A reduction in the incidence of the target offences according to BOCSAR and Police crime data
- Number of taxi vouchers distributed and used.
- Number of licensees involved in promoting safe drinking.
- Feedback from liquor licensees.
- Feedback from the community and business.

7.3 Malicious Damage, Harrassment and Threatening Behaviour Action Plan

Target Offence

Malicious Damage, Harrassment and Threatening Behaviour

Project

Components of the project will be:

- In partnership with a range of organisations including Youth Works, PCYC, TAFE and schools, implement early intervention programs targeting at risk and disengaged young people.
- In partnership with the Police Youth Works and PCYC, work to develop connections between Police and youth. This could include holding police/youth community forums and involving police in local community events that involve young people.
- Promote networking between schools and TAFE to provide education around the dangers of alcohol and other drugs and sexual health.
- Network with Schools, TAFE, Job Network providers and Centrelink to develop wider skills training for youth leaving school or home.
- Work with Police Community Action Team on targeting the identified gang behaviours.
- Work with the Indigenous community and local youth services to develop Indigenous youth programs and activities
- Involve Indigenous youth in Lithgow Youth Council
- Council to plan for the provision of youth facilities in Lithgow including social events, sporting activities etc.

Rationale

A wide range of issues and behaviours concerning young people were raised during the community and agency consultations undertaken in the development of this Crime Prevention Plan. These included alcohol related violence, vandalism, bullying and risky behaviours in relation to alcohol.

Unemployment, including youth unemployment, in Lithgow is significantly above the NSW average. There is widespread concern around young people, particularly males, leaving school early, not having pathways to employment and training and being generally "at risk".

Gang behaviours have been acknowledged by the Police to be a significant concern.

There appears to be a strong connection between youth boredom and vandalism and other anti social behaviours.

Lead Agency and Partners

Lithgow City Council Crime Prevention Committee in association with Youth Worx, PCYC, Lithgow business, TAFE, schools, Lithgow Police and the general community.

Objectives

Project objectives will be to achieve:

-
- Significant and measurable improvements in relation to crime involving young people, according to BOCSAR crime data, Police data and data from local business through:
 - Reductions in vandalism and harassment
 - Reductions in gang crime.
 - Improved educational, training and employment opportunities for young people through assisting and mentoring disengaged young people to remain in education.
 - Improved social opportunities for young people
 - Improved networking and partnerships between local agencies involved with young people.
 - Improved image of young people.

Expected Outcomes

- Improved self-esteem of young people.
- Greater recognition and appreciation by the wider community of the issues facing young people and the contribution they make to community life.
- Improved pathways to training and employment for "at risk" youth.
- Development of youth programs in Schools and local community including Alcohol and Drug awareness, sexual safety and healthy relationships.
- Establish Youth Council to provide youth with a voice and the opportunity to generate further change for themselves.

Performance Measures

The following will be used to measure if the project has achieved its objectives:

- BOCSAR and Police crime data
- Consultation with schools, TAFE and the Police.
- General community and business consultation.

7.4 Assault Domestic Violence Related Action Plan

Target Offence

Domestic Violence

Project

The project will build partnerships between the Crime Prevention Committee, Council, schools, business, licensed premises and organisations that work with domestic violence victims to develop a social marketing campaign targeting Domestic Violence. Crime data highlights that the level of Domestic Violence in Lithgow is high. Women's organisations and others that work with victims have highlighted this fact for many years. Domestic Violence was often identified as an issue during the Crime Plan community consultations. There has not however been a recognition about how the wider community can become involved in addressing this issue.

Components of the project will include:

- Media campaigns and campaigns in licensed premises to highlight the prevalence of Domestic Violence and that Domestic Violence is a community responsibility.
- Educational programs in schools and TAFE around attitudes towards women and attitudes towards Domestic Violence.
- Supporting and giving prominence to local events such as "White Ribbon Day" that aim to raise awareness of Domestic Violence.
- Supporting and giving recognition to local services, including services which work with the indigenous community which work with the victims of Domestic Violence.

Rationale

Crime Data shows that although rates of domestic violence related assault per 100,000 population in Lithgow remained fairly steady between 2003 and 2007 they were well above the NSW average in each of these years.

Crime map data shows:

- Of the 121 actual incidents of domestic violence related assault that occurred in Lithgow LGA in 2007, 99 incidents occurred in a residential dwelling (81.8% of the total), 13 incidents occurred in an outdoor public place (10.7% of the total) and 6 incidents occurred in licensed premises (5.0% of the total).
- There was a significant percentage increase in 2006 and 2007 in the number of incidents occurring in licensed premises.
- Almost 30% of domestic violence assaults during 2007 occurred in January and December. The next most prevalent months for this crime were February and May. Rates were lowest in June and July.
- Rates of domestic violence assault were highest from midnight Friday to 6am Saturday and again from 6pm to midnight Saturday. This time coincides with high rates of non-domestic violence related assault. Rates were also above average during the period 6pm to midnight on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday nights.

The Hotspot Map shows that domestic violence related assault was most likely to occur in the Central Business District of Lithgow and the Bowenfels area.

Domestic violence was often raised as a concern during community consultations on the crime plan and has been a long running issue of concern for local service providers, particularly women's organisations.

Lead Agency and Partners

Lithgow City Council Crime Prevention Committee in association with local women's services, indigenous services, the Domestic Violence Court Support Scheme, Lithgow Liquor Accord, Department of Housing, Department of Community Services, and the general community.

Objectives

Project objectives will be to:

- Achieve significant and measurable improvements in relation to domestic violence, according to BOCSAR crime data, Police data and data from local agencies.
- Build a broad coalition of local organisations that take responsibility for addressing Domestic Violence.
- Enhance the range of prevention programs in schools and the general community
- Enhance the range of support services available for victims.
- Raised community awareness and discussion of Domestic Violence.

Expected Outcomes

- Domestic Violence will be more widely recognised as a community responsibility.
- There will be a wider range of organisations involved in addressing Domestic Violence.
- There will be a wider range of prevention programs, including school programs.
- Young people and young men in particular will be more aware of what constitutes violent behaviour.

Performance Measures

The following will be used to measure if the project has achieved its objectives:

- BOCSAR and Police crime data
- Consultation with women's organisations.
- Consultation with the general community.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

- Recorded Criminal Incidents by LGA 2003-2007
- Local Government Area Ranking Tool 2007
- Local Government Area Crime Report Series 2007
- Specific Crime Information Tool 2003 - 2007.

NSW Attorney General's Department Guidelines for Developing a Crime Prevention Strategy

Lithgow City Council Social Plan 2008

Health Status Data - Sydney West Area Health Service Centre for Epidemiology, Indicators, Research and Evaluation (2005)

APPENDICIES

Community Consultation Results

Indigenous Community

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultation was held during Reconciliation Week 2008.

It was agreed by those present that alcohol related violence was a major issue for the Lithgow area in general including:

- Domestic violence
- Malicious damage

Where do you think they may be?

The Bowenfels area was noted to be a high risk area for this type of behaviour however, it was noted that many crimes go unreported from this area. It was felt that this was due to two key factors - a closed culture where people do not report on their neighbour, family etc and the fear of retribution and becoming isolated from the community.

Alcohol related violence and malicious damage was of concern in the Main Street area in relation to the pubs etc. Furthermore, two recent deaths involving outside contractors were of particular concern.

Youth

There were a large number of issues raised that have been distilled as follows. A full list of issues raised is included in the Appendices.

Violence
Vandalism
Bullying
Boredom
Under-age drinking

Where do you think they may be?

- Main Street
- Train Station
- Landa Street
- Parks in general
- Queen Elizabeth Park
- Endeavour Park
- Outside Pubs/Night Clubs, Except the Donnybrook
- Schools (on weekends)
- Skate Park
- Cook Street Plaza

Wallerawang School

Wallerawang Public School doubled as both a space for the year 6 children to take part in the consultation process and as a community hall in which we could hold public sessions for the Wallerawang community.

Year 6 Consultation

10 eager year 6 students took part in a 1 hour session. It was interesting to gain further insight from this young audience.

What do you think the main crime problems are that occur in your community?

- Fighting
- Vandalism
- Drinking
- Drugs
- Broken Glass
- Thieving
- Murder
- Spiking drinks
- Bullying
- Rape
- Drink driving
- Bashings
- Pubs closing too late
- Noise
- Stealing
- Talking on a mobile phone while driving
- Alcohol abuse
- Speeding

Portland Central School

As with Wallerawang, Portland Central School doubled as a venue for both the kids and as a public venue. The results for the public are included in the results for the general community.

Two sessions were held from 9am to 11am with students from years 7-11 being represented. These sessions were broken into two groups with the first being for the younger students and the last being for the older.

What are the main crime problems in the Lithgow/Portland area and where are they?

- Fighting at the Skate park and the pubs
- Vandalism
- Graffiti
- Littering
- Drink Driving
- Speeding in school zones
- Drugs
- Bullying
- Underage drinking
- Malicious damage
- Sexual Assault
- Underage sex
- Alcohol related problems
- Fights

Summary

The youth consultations were quite successful and provided the younger members of the Lithgow community with the opportunity to have serious input into changing their community for the better.

The youth perspective on crime issues in Lithgow has provided valuable insight into their lifestyle and has given the Council great ideas on how to tackle youth issues in the community including boredom, underage drinking and drug use etc.

General Community

A number of community consultations were held in Lithgow urban centre and the townships of Wallerawang, Portland, Cullen Bullen and Rydal. Target group consultations were also held with People with a Disability and People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds (CALD).

Portland Community Session

Attendance at this consultation was low although a number of important issues were raised.

What do you think the primary crime problems are?

- Responsible service of alcohol was raised as an issue.
- Vandalism
- The high profile of the Police brings respect and trust from the community. More police 'presence' is needed.
- Domestic/Family Violence

Where do you think Crime takes place?

While there does not appear to be a lot of crime in Portland, some incidents occur in the Hotels, Clubs and the street.

Cullen Bullen Community Consultations

One Cullen Bullen Consultation took place in the evening at the local hall with twelve people attending.

What do you think the primary crime problems are?

The level of crime in the Cullen Bullen area in general was seen to be minimal. The primary crime problems were seen to be:

- Property Damage and vandalism

Crime issues elsewhere in Lithgow was also discussed with the following issues identified:

- Alcohol related violence in Pubs and Clubs
- Why are pubs open to 4am?
- Drugs – the recent death of a Portland girl as a result of a drug overdose was noted. It is believed that the drugs were purchased in Lithgow.
- Bag snatching in supermarkets

Policing

The Highway Patrol maintains a high presence in the Cullen Bullen area.

It was noted that in general the Police need to develop a higher community presence throughout the area. It was proposed that they should be raising their community profile by:

- Attending Progress/Tidy Towns meetings in the villages
- Introducing themselves to local business owners
- Visiting schools

The matter of feedback on crime issues from Police was discussed. Even though a matter may be reported there does not seem to be any follow up by Police.

It was suggested that there needs to be more of a Police presence including foot patrols late at night and in pubs/clubs.

There was concern that Police do not appear to have the same powers that they used to and that they do not make their presence or themselves known to young people like they used to ie. pulling up to individual youths or groups and just having a chat.

Where do you think they may be?

- Pubs – particularly in Lithgow.
- Nightspot
- Supermarkets

Rydal Community Consultations

This consultation was an evening session held at Rydal Mount Guest House & Conference Centre with 6 community members attending.

What do you think the primary crime problems are that occur in your community? And where are they?

- Graffiti on benches at the railway station
- Old machine gun missing
- Rally driving at show ground
- Price Busters in Lithgow are selling a wide range of dangerous weapons/knives
- Dangerous driving on Stacks Hill on the Rydal Hampton Road
- Low presence of Police in outer rural communities such as Rydal
- Occasional vandalism at show ground
- Trail bikes-
 - Racing through forest
 - Unregistered
 - Bad for tourism (gives impression that locals have no respect for community)
 - Need for designated areas for riders

In relation to the discussion on trail bikes it was noted that there are two types of riders:

- On unregistered bikes riding in the State Forest and coming into the village, riding through the streets and at the Showground.
- tourists staying in the area to ride in the forest and respecting the village.
- Street Lighting
 - Smashed by rocks
 - Removed and not replaced at New Street
 - A light to be installed on western side of railway gates in the vicinity of the bus shelter.

It was discussed at this point how Rydal community members tend to know one another enough to identify if someone different is in town or just passing through, some felt this made it easier to identify troublemakers etc.

General Community and Local Retailers

This was held in the Lithgow Library with 8 in attendance.

What do you think the primary crime problems are?

- Truancy
- Gambling
- Drug abuse – Illegal and prescription
- Theft from shops – sidewalk displays
- Car theft
- Break & Enter

It was agreed by those present that alcohol related violence was a major issue for the area in general resulting in:

- Concerns for personal safety

-
- Vandalism and damage to property
 - Assaults
 - Gambling
 - Domestic Violence
 - Drug use
 - Contempt for public spaces
 - Gambling

The group reflected on possible causes for this problem and noted

- Mental Health problems
- Unemployment
- Poor education
- Hotels are open too late
- Responsible service of alcohol not appropriately reinforced by authorities and Publicans. ie. Anecdotal evidence provided that bar staff trained in RSA do not feel they are backed up by their bosses in some instances.
- Family stress – economic pressure
- Gambling
- Transient workers – recent fatalities involving RailCorp Contractors were cited.

Lack of response to incidents by Police was seen to be an issue. The group agreed that this is possibly a result of low police staffing numbers. It was noted however that staffing is in response to statistical data from reports. The group commented that many crimes go unreported as people are of the opinion that nothing will be done about it.

Reasons for not reporting incidents included:

- A perception that there is little response from Police
- Fear of continued victimisation ie. businesses having windows continually broken in Main Street.
- Police powers are no longer what they used to be.
- Penalties don't fit the crime.

Where do you think they may be?

- Queen Elizabeth Park – Night Club
- Homes – Break & Enter – Assault
- Car parks – Street – car theft
- Main Street CBD – Sidewalk theft from shop displays
- Main Street CBD – Pubs and in the street
- Pubs

Summary

The community suggested that alcohol related issues need to be taken up at a higher level through the Police Action Community Team (PACT). Penalties need to be applied to enforce responsible service of alcohol including:

- Temporary Closure of premises
- Discussion with contractors or employers of contractors to develop a strict code of conduct in relation to contract/temporary workers in the area.
- Stronger enforcement of penalties on individuals committing alcohol related crimes.
- Education in relation to the effects of alcohol and alcohol related crimes.
- Re-instatement of a drug support group (Narcotics Anonymous) and Community Drug Action Team.
- Information to be available on networks and support groups.
- Better policing and enforcement of skateboarding and bike riding in Main Street.
- There is a need to ensure better follow up by the relevant authorities on identified issues with a view to implementing preventative strategies with short, medium and long-term goals.
- Council needs to take a leadership role.
- Truancy – Get the kids into school and/or educational programs.

Disability

A forum for carers and those living with disabilities was held at Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre. Attendance was low although the following issues were raised:

What are the crime issues for people living with disability?

- Crime statistics should be accurately and fully reported.
- There is under-reporting of crime by the community, including people with disabilities.
- People are scared to say things for fear of reprisal
- People need to be able to anonymously record incidents and stats

Where does crime take place?

- People are afraid to walk at night or to Lithgow Workman's club for fear of gangs
- At Bowenfels Post Office, a man was approached for cigarette and was badly bashed
- Elderly people are perceived to be too scared to go out at night.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities (CALD)

This consultation was held at Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre (LINC)

What are the crime problems in the area?

- Break and enter
- Alcohol related crimes
- Crime under reported
 - Continued repercussions
 - Language and cultural issues
 - Domestic violence - in particular it was noted that women on sponsored wife visas are in vulnerable positions
 - If not a major incident, community members feel that it is not worth going to police about as they will not do much about it anyway
 - People ignore crime, but often do report when they have witnessed crime
 - Apathy leads to the demise of the social fabric
- Theft
- Racism
 - Integration into community, how welcoming and accepting is the community of different cultural backgrounds?
- Group and gang related crime
- Lighting
 - Major traffic areas are not well lit.
 - Laneway next to Queen Elizabeth Park is also not well lit.
- Driving under influence of alcohol or other drugs
- Lack of public transport contributes to this
- Some from of public information program is needed to address this

Where are these issues?

- Main St after licensed premises close
- Licensed premises - security need to clear streets after closing
- Sporting fields
- Homeless people sleeping in park
- Bowenfels – Difficult to get police to attend incidents.

Comments were also made that:

- Precinct Committees are needed.
- Neighbourhood watch is not active

AGENCY CONSULTATIONS

Following the community consultation meetings, consultations were held from November 2008 to March 2009 with a number of key agencies in Lithgow including Lithgow Police, the Lithgow

City Rail

Main problems Identified

- Anti- social behaviours such as swearing and spitting
- Verbal assaults towards rail staff
- Physical assaults have also occurred in the past
- Lack of security guards or transit officers can lead to problems escalating
- Vandalism
- Occasional damage to cars parked outside of station
- Residents in Railway Pde disturbed by fighting, swearing and other noted anti social behaviours
- People with possible mental health issues can cause public nuisance, property damage or display other distressing behaviours which can distress commuters

Where

- Trains
- Platforms
- Public thoroughfare at leading from Main street to Railway Pde
- Railway stairs
- Damage has occurred in waiting room, signs etc on platform

When

- Vandalism occurs more during school holidays
- When trains terminate early in morning
- Friday and Saturday nights are often the worst nights of week

Other Crime problems impacting on station

- Intoxicated persons leaving pubs in early hour of morning coming into station fighting, swearing etc.
- Station is a public space and is used 24 hours a day which opens it up to the anti social behaviours previously mentioned.

Possible solutions to issues raised

- CCTV captures most incidents with a help point being available on the platform that will override all cameras at headquarters so problems can be addressed.
- More police, transit officers or other security or security presence needed on stations
- Activities generated for youth to alleviate boredom
- Build partnerships with other organisations including, Liquor Accord to address crime issues.

Other

It was also noted that:

- It may be kids outside of area that cause problems
- Sometimes public perception, especially from older community members, may be much different to what is actually going on
- Lithgow station is better than other stations when it comes to crime issues
- Homeless people do access trains for sleeping in early morning but they do not cause majority of problems around this time.

Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre

The main issues discussed were:

Alcohol Related Violence

- Concern that Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) requirements are not being observed.
- There is an apparent mismatch between alcohol related violence and the level of Police presence at night.
- Plastic cup program might be worth considering in Lithgow.
- There are high levels of anti-social and violent/offensive behaviours including malicious damage in Main Street. There should be zero tolerance to this behaviour.
- Consider responsible drinking programs through current Healthy Active Lithgow and Live Life Well health projects.
- These types of behaviours reduce quality of life and discourage people from visiting the Main Street area after hours.

Activities for Young People

- There is a need for positive pathways for young people outside of school hours including cinema, PCYC type activities, skate park, teenage mentoring programs.
- Importance of engaging with young people through eg school programs.

Drug Issues

- There is an apparent link between drug use and small crimes. Council to review drug crime data and where appropriate, include in crime plan.

Public Attitudes

- There is a lack of community engagement in discussions around crime.
- Public attitudes to crime should be acknowledged.
- The justice system is not transparent.
- People are sometimes concerned that reporting a crime may expose them to risks. People also become disillusioned when no effective action is taken.
- The key to changing/transforming the community lays with community attitudes.

A Strategic Approach

- There needs to be a vision for improving the quality of life in Lithgow and a timeline for achievement that includes the small steps that are needed.

Lithgow Business Association and Lithgow Police

Council staff attended a meeting of the Lithgow Business Association in March 2009 to which Lithgow Police had been invited to address the LBA members on local crime issues and trends.

Present were Superintendent Mick Goodwin, the Chifley Area Commander, Inspector Tony Hoolahan and Sgt Mark Sheppard.

- Some spikes are occurring in some types of crime, particularly Break and Enter since late 2008. There was also an increase in juvenile arrests in late 2008.
- The Police assess crime data daily, monthly and retrospectively up to 3 years.
- In general, assault rates increase in summer and decrease in winter.
- Drug detections also generally increase in summer as that is when offenders are more likely to be on the street where they can be detected by Police.
- There appears to be an increasing trend towards offenders being from outside Lithgow.
- For the next 6 weeks, there will be an emphasis on undercover policing.
- Plainclothes police operate a Target Action Group, targeting certain types of crime.
- There has also been a recent policing emphasis on Whitecap gang activities.
- The Police will be vigorously enforcing bail conditions including on the Whitecap gang.
- A joint truancy program is being undertaken with the Department of Education and Training (DET).

-
- There was a question from the floor about the need to institute Beat Police in the CBD where there is a lot of anti-social behaviour.
 - **Policing Levels** – the Police advised that current Police levels are up to strength however this will often be reduced by the number of Police on leave.
 - Cycle Police are on way but their appearance in Lithgow has been delayed.
 - **Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) laws.** The Police advised that there is a Licensing Sergeant based in Bathurst who will be doing spot checks. This is also a matter for the Lithgow Liquor Accord to be addressing.
 - **Assault** – there was concern expressed by one licensee who witnessed an assault outside his hotel but the Police failed to act even when the alleged offender was identified to police. The Police indicated that the reason why no action was taken was likely to be because the victim did not wish to make a formal complaint.
 - There was also interest in the way that the Police can work with young people who are involved in, or on the margins of crime including diversional programs. The Police advised there is a Youth Liaison Officer at Bathurst for the Command Area and the Capertee Police Officer will also be involved in youth liaison work across the Lithgow area.
 - There was also interest in the courts using Community Service Orders as a strategy for addressing youth crime and other anti-social behaviours.

Lithgow Community Health Clinical Team

Concerns of the group included:

- Licensed premises' trading hours and the impact on late night violence.
- Unemployment
- The significant number of at risk young boys aged 13-14 who have been suspended from school.
- The need for good role modelling by parents and others.
- Early intervention programs.
- Youth work and diversional programs.
- The need for training programs and apprenticeships and other courses through TAFE.

Lithgow Valley Plaza

Issues identified included:

- Graffiti and shoplifting.
- There have been some complaints about people hanging around the entrance near Video Ezy but not of any violence or harassment either there or elsewhere in Plaza.
- There have been issues with people loitering and drinking in the carpark of a night. This has not only involved young people but also older people aged roughly 25-40 years.
- There is one security guard on duty until 10pm but no security cameras.
- The centre is open until 10pm on Friday and Saturday night.