



DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

16th January 2007.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| DCCS13 SUPP. | 2005 - 2008 CRIME PREVENTION PLAN FILE: 761 MLB {Folio No. *} |
|-------------------------|--|

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the exhibition of the reviewed 2005 - 2008 Crime Prevention Plan.

◆◆◆◆◆

DESCRIPTION:

In December 2004, Council adopted the 2005 - 2008 Crime Prevention Plan.

This plan sets out strategies that Council, in partnership with other agencies, will undertake to address community safety and crime prevention issues identified.

One of the General Managers Outcomes for 2006 / 2007 is that the existing plan is reviewed by 31st March 2007.

A review has been undertaken in consultation with the NSW Attorney General's Department based on their eligibility criteria for funding under their Safer Community Compact Grants. It is a requirement that only endorsed plans are eligible for funding under the grants program. Councils current Crime Prevention Plan has not been endorsed by the NSW Attorney Generals Department. The next round of funding will be opening in February 2007.

The review had resulted in changes being made to the Crime Profile of the Crime Prevention Plan. Because of these changes the updated Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy was advertised for twenty eight (28) days until the 11th January 2007. This advertising period also included a Public meeting held on Monday, 8th January 2007 for which the Mayor, Clr Betty Green, Deputy Mayor Clr J H Bowell and one (1) member of the public and was in attendance.

Public Meeting Requests for Alterations

At the Public Meeting the following issues were raised for consideration to be placed within the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan.

- The need for the security and security matters for the Industrial Area at South Kempsey,
- The need for parents to take more responsibility for their children's actions and the possibility of introducing / running the Safe Passage Program by Parent to Parent Australia Incorporated, and
- The lobbying by Council for additional services and resources to address Crime Prevention issues.

South Kempsey Industrial Area

The activities of theft, vandalism and other criminal activities within the South Kempsey Industrial Area have a direct impact on Property Crime, which has been identified as Priority Area 2 within the Crime Prevention Plan.

Within Priority Area 2 Strategies 2D and 2C have been identified as the areas in which property crime can best be addressed from both the perspective of Council as the land owner of streets and public amenities and existing business owners and prospective business owners within the Industrial estate.

The common thread of these two (2) strategies is the need for the development and implementation of a DCP / Policy on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED and Crime Prevention techniques to be included in assessing Development Applications as per Section 79C of the Environment and Planning Act. In addition, the implementation of these adopted principles within the wider community including the industrial estates of the shire.

Whilst the strategies, attached at [\(Appendix F\)](#) do not specifically identify the South Kempsey Industrial Area as a concern, they do reflect that this strategy targets this area.

The only concern regarding these two (2) strategies is that once a DCP or Policy is adopted there could be a significant financial impact on Council and businesses in their compliance to these requirements.

To address this Action Priority Area 2D.1 should be deleted and 2D.2 be amended to read 'Develop and adopt Council Guidelines regarding Crime Prevention and Development Applications.'

Parental Responsibility

Parental Responsibility of youth was raised as an issue at the public meeting. It was felt that the Crime Prevention Plan does not address this issue and that consideration should be given to the implementation of more parental responsibility through programs such as the Safe Passage Program undertaken by Parent to Parent Australia.

In NSW, Parental Responsibility is governed by the Children and Youth Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998.

On 5 February 2006, NSW Premier, Hon Morris Iemma MP, announced that the Government would amend the Act to enable the Department of

Community Services to apply to the Children's Court to enter into parental responsibility contracts with parents of children who are at risk of neglect.

The contracts could require parents to undertake a course of action such as attending a parenting program, attending counselling, or refraining from abusing illegal drugs or alcohol. Parents who refuse to enter into a contract or breach a contract would risk having their children removed on protection grounds. These laws are part of the Government's Respect and Responsibility plan and they aim to prevent juvenile crime. In August 2005, the Opposition also announced that it would introduce new parental responsibility laws if elected.

Whilst this is covered by, NSW Legislation if Council would like to consider the introduction of such Course within the Crime Prevention Plan an additional Action could be added as follows:

Action

That we investigate the implementation of the Safe Passage Program undertaken by Parent-to-Parent Australia Inc.

Outcomes

Improved social connections between parents and their children.

Responsibilities:

The Community

Performance Indicators

Program researched within timescale
Recommendation made to implement program or not
Program implemented within timescale
Number of participants

Timescale

Investigations complete 6 months from commencement
Program implemented within 12 months of completion of investigations.

Lobbying for Additional Services and Resources

Lobbying for additional services and resources was raised as an issue at the public meeting. It was felt that the Crime Prevention Plan does not adequately address the issue of lobby and advocacy for additional services and resources other than those identified within Priority Problem Area 4 – Strategy 4C, Item 4C.4 relating to health, social and welfare services.

If Council would like to further advocate for the provision of additional services and resources to address Crime Prevention issues, an additional Action could be added as follows:

Action

That Council through the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Working Party lobby and advocate for the provision of additional services and resources to address Crime Prevention Issues.

Outcomes

Improved services and resources to address crime prevention issues..

Responsibilities:

The Community
Kempsey Shire Council
Various agencies

Performance Indicators

Maintained number of services and resources
No of additional services and resources obtained.

Timescale

Ongoing

Submissions Received

As part of the submission period no written submissions where received.

This Strategy is now being forwarded back to Council for adoption.

A copy of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan was provided to Councillors at the December 2007 meeting.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

- ***Social***

The Social implications of this report in particular is that the revised Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy will address a number of social issues of concern to the Kempsey Shire.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

The financial implications arising from this report are that if this plan is endorsed by the NSW Attorney Generals Department Council may be eligible for funding of \$50,000 over three (3) years.

- *Policy or Statutory*

There are no policy of statutory implications arising from this plan.

- *Director's Review*

The recommendation is supported.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the amendments identified within the body of this report be incorporated into the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2005 ~ 2008 Amended version.
2. That this amended Crime Prevention Plan be adopted.

.....
G B Snape
DIRECTOR CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES