

## MINUTES OF THE CASTLEREAGH LOCAL AREA COMMAND COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT COMMITTEE MEETING

The following are minutes of the Castlereagh Local Area Command Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 18 August 2010, at the Coonamble Shire Council Rooms, commencing at 2.15 pm.

### 1. PRESENT

A/Superintendent Chris Taylor (Chairperson)	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Inspector Tony Mureau	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Acting Inspector Mark Hoath	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Acting Sergeant Jodi West	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Jill Granger	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Valry Kuhner	Country Women's Association
Ken Moody	Coonamble Lions Club
John Griffiths	Coonamble Shire Council
Don Schieb	Coonamble Shire Council

### 2. APOLOGIES

Tim Horan (Mayor)	Coonamble Shire Council
Michael Webb	Coonamble Shire Council
Reverend Geoff Tym	Anglican Church Coonamble
Superintendent Bob Noble	Castlereagh Local Area Command

### 3. WELCOME BY ACTING SUPERINTENDENT TAYLOR

Acting Superintendent Taylor welcomed those representatives in attendance to the Castlereagh Local Area Command Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting and introduced Police staff.

Acting Superintendent Taylor advised the Community Safety Precinct Meetings were a follow on from the older style PACT meetings to provide an opportunity for local Councils and community members to meet with Police and share their perspective on local crime and safety issues.

Mr. Taylor suggested that the next Community Safety Precinct Meeting be an open meeting, enabling the opportunity for more community attendance.

### 4. GENERAL BUSINESS – OPEN DISCUSSION

Inspector Mureau discussed the recent crime issues/trends that the community of Coonamble had been experiencing and advised that figures obtained through the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) are more prevalent to larger communities as they are based on per 100 000 people and as such smaller communities figures look worse than what they really are.

The following matters were discussed and explained in detail:-

#### 4.1 BREAK AND ENTERS

- Traditionally crime down in colder months
- September and October generally see a spike in criminal activity – offenders released from goal.
- Concern that the families seem to be no longer responsible for the offenders.
- Officers leave community short when escorts have to be undertaken.

## **4.2 COURT SENTENCES**

- Conviction rate over 88% in Coonamble.
- Police have no say in relation to penalty issued by Court.
- Penalties issued by courts may be appealed and often in the case of the offender the penalty remains the same or is lower.
- Police are able to target offenders through STMP process – Suspect Target Management Process, proactively interfering with their lives.

## **4.3 POLICE VISIBILITY AND DEPLOYMENT**

Acting Superintendent Taylor discussed Policing in the Southern Zone, particularly Crime in Coonamble and strategies used to reduce these activities.

- STMP process, Bail Compliance Checks, Youth Liaison Officer, Liquor Accord, involvement of the Crime Prevention Officer.
- Regular interaction between government agencies such as Probation & Parole, DOCS, Juvenile Justice when dealing with repeat offenders/families to alter behaviours.
- Southern Zone currently has authorised positions for 3 Sergeants & 9 Constables. Currently there are 2 x Constables positions advertised and 1 x Sgt Position for Gulargambone which will be filled from the promotions list.
- Filling of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ACLO position.
- Proactive targets reached monthly.
- Valry Kuhner wished to express her thanks and praised the efforts of Senior Constable Peter Hartley.

Acting Superintendent Taylor advised that the Local Area Commander can deploy Police throughout the LAC, however the number of officers at each station is set by Police hierarchy.

## **4.4 DRUG INTELLIGENCE**

Concerns raised regarding the lack of drug convictions and the angst this is causing throughout the community.

- Inspector Mureau explained the process of gathering intelligence by way of Community reports on known drug offenders.
- Police require reliable and accurate information to enable action to be taken against offenders.
- Covert surveillance work to be carried out.
- Pro-activity of police - Person Searches and Vehicle Searches –1 drug detection for the month of July.

#### **4.5 YOUTH SERVICES**

- Castlereagh LAC to utilise framework of “Keep them Safe” which identifies problem areas.
- Discussion highlighting the importance of working with families to overcome problems.
- Information sharing with other government departments, whilst overcoming privacy issues some departments may have.
- Coonamble Shire advised that Youth Services in Coonamble are run by Murdi Paarki.
- Establishment of PCYC or a mobile fully equipped PCYC van – funding suggested for van through Local Implementation Plan Walgett RSD.

#### **4.6 ROAD CLOSURES**

Concern with people still utilising roads which are unsealed and have been closed due to wet weather – possible insurance claims.

- All Major Vehicle Accidents are reportable.
- Minor accidents are not reportable unless for Insurance purposes.
- Offence to disobey a Road closure sign

#### **4.7 CCTV CAMERAS/LIGHTING**

- NSW Police unable to download from CCTV owned by Shire.
- NSW police do not advertise the fact – utilisation of camera.
- Offenders are able to hide in areas with poor visibility.
- Areas identified of poor visibility and possible improvements include School areas, Pages Terrace, Warrena Street and Ross Street.
- Aesthetic improvements being carried out – building material/trees in main street could provide areas for offenders to conceal themselves.

#### **4.8 DISTRICT COURT STATUS**

Discussion about the closure of the District Court. John Griffiths outlined the economic benefits to having District Court as well as the maintenance of crime.

#### **4.9 MEDIA**

Inspector Mureau advised that he puts out a newsletter for the local papers regarding crime activities and success rates of convictions. This could also be broadcast on Radio and to act as a deterrent for persons engaging/thinking of engaging in criminal activity.

#### **4.10 IMPROVEMENT WORKS**

Discussion regarding the co-operation between Coonamble Shire and Police in maintaining roads/improvement works being carried out with the Shire being able to access incident reports.

NSW Police advised that Shire are unable to access incident reports but are able to access event numbers through the RTA.

#### **4.11 RURAL CRIME**

Don Schieb raised concern about the increase in Rural Crime at present.

Inspector Mureau advised of the present understaffing of the Detectives office at Castlereagh. A new Detective Sgt will commence in the next four weeks with the vacant Detectives position currently advertised which will release the RCI to concentrate on rural crime.

Information given regarding RCI operations in Shire.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4:00 pm

**Next Meeting will be scheduled tentatively for Nov/Dec – Superintendent Noble to liaise with Manager John Griffiths.**