

**NEW ENGLAND LOCAL AREA COMMAND
MINUTES OF ARMIDALE/URALLA/GUYRA PACT
HELD AT NEW ENGLAND LAC
7th DECEMBER, 2011
COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM**

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Present: Supt Lyons; Det Insp Stier; Insp Shoesmith; Mr Richard Torbay MP, Member for Northern Tablelands; Mr Brian Kelly, Armidale Dumaresq Council; Mr Hans Hietbrink, Mayor, Guyra Shire Council; Mr Michael Pearce, Deputy Mayor, Uralla Shire Council; Mr Steve Widders, Aboriginal Representative; Ms Barb Shaw, UNE; Ms Sue Durham; Armidale Liquor Accord; Chris Milne, Executive Officer

APOLOGIES: Ms Eve Woodberry, Ms Isabelle Strutt, Mr Roy Wheatley, Mr Peter Ducat, S/C Vaughan

WELCOME: Welcome by Supt Lyons.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING RATIFIED: Mr Stier – seconded Mr Torbay.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Aboriginal Justice Advisory Group – Mr Stier stated that he did not attend the last meeting; he got ambiguous messages and believed it had been called off. Police will attend future meetings.

Circle Sentencing – Commander liaised with Brian Dennison and had lengthy discussions. He asked him to benchmark this circle with others and was advised that New England is No. 2 and going reasonably well. If the persons involved in this process are constant and not changing, this improves the outcome. There have been issues with factions in Armidale but this is sorted out now and is improving. Mr Widders is concerned with the number of repeat offenders in the program and the fact that it is not supposed to be for repeats. Advised that when an offender has committed an offence that is markedly different to the first offence then this may still be appropriate.

Skateboards – Police are tasked with these issues in the Mall and the Council Rangers also have a role. Shane Burns has been approached and the situation will be monitored. Patrols will increase during school holidays.

Police Academy – Mr Torbay, Supt Lyons and Insp Shoesmith went to the Academy and spoke to the new probationary constable's coming to the New England. They were disappointed with the impression they had of country life and the fact that most wanted to swap with city locations. When spoken to and the facilities in their appointed towns was explained their impression changed markedly. **Need to examine the impression that new police (and others) have of country life. They are being**

influenced by inaccurate media and word of mouth and therefore their impression becomes tainted and not reflective of the truth of life in country towns.

CRIME REPORTS

Presentation given by Mr Stier re crime in New England.

STAFFING LEVELS

With the addition of 16 new probationary constables, staffing will come on strength. Staffing report given by Supt Lyons. 2 Statewide adverts have gone out for Tingha (2 positions) will be advertised on Monday. From January 2012, a new Detective's allocation is occurring. New England are getting 4, 2 for Armidale and one each for Glen Innes and Inverell. There has also been a submission for extra General Duties positions. Long term sick standing at 10, however many will be progressed very soon.

CURRENT AND EMERGING ISSUES

Issues with the industrial dispute over the death and disability (D&D) scheme which could cause issues with Proactivity and reporting. Industrial Commission has told the officers to cease the action. Should be resolved soon. Last year New England was most overspent in NSW. Part of the reason was underfunding that goes back many years when an increase of staff occurred and was not funded. Still overbudget but not as bad as last year. Proactivity will improve including in the mall with the addition of the extra probationary constables. Complaints against police are very low.

INTERAGENCY DEVELOPMENT

Cross Border Commissioner being readvertised. MOU's between agencies and sharing of information have been signed off. Interstate sharing agreements have also been negotiated.

MATTERS OF INTEREST

Mr Stier mentioned smoking in the mall especially outside licensed premises and near playground. Noted that Council determined that this would not be regulated. This matter needs to be examined further given the behaviour outside of licensed premises.

Management of "Day on the Green" – 12 March 2012 is occurring between Council and Insp Stier. This is going very well and should be an important recurring event for the town. Should have 5000+ persons attending.

Neighbourhood Watch will be rolled out in this LAC in February. Community to be informed and Mr Torbay would like to be informed/involved. Media release will be provided to Mr Torbay.

Speeding in Uralla. When this was raised by the local traffic committee, the issue was directed back to Council and Police by the RTA. To be examined regarding who is responsible. **ACTION:** Sgt Bramble to provide a response.

Guyra – no issues and positive reports from the Community. Positive reports also regarding Tingha.

UNE – Trimester system coming in. O week will remain, however other important dates will change. UNE will liaise with the police re this.

Meeting closed 11.30am