

Walcha Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting 19 November 2009 – Walcha Council Chambers

Present: Cr Lloyd Levingston, Mr Terry Sanders, Ms Karen Farrell – Walcha Central School, Inspector Trench, Sergeant Betteridge, Mrs Jill Smith

Apologies: Supt Pheeneey, Mr Richard Torbay MP, Mrs McRae – St Patrick's School

Meeting commenced: 10.10am

Welcome and overview of meeting by Inspector Trench.

Items from previous meeting:

- Discussions in relation to the lights on the school buses and the enforcing of speed limits when buses are setting down and picking up passengers.

The Highway Patrol have been active in the area. Speed limits are being enforced – no further complaints in relation to school zones – buses.

Action: As a general reminder 'Slow Down to 40' will be placed in the school notice.

Overview of crime in Walcha given by Sergeant Betteridge, Sector Supervisor Walcha.

- No on going criminal activity in the area – generally 'one off' matters.
- Two motor vehicles have been stolen recently within the sector – both motor vehicles were stolen from residences and had the keys in their ignition.
- Drug issues discussed – not considered to be a big problem in Walcha area.
- Highway Patrol officers have been targeting motorcycles travelling through the area.

- Walcha Police have increased night patrols and this has been reflected in stealing offences being reduced.
- Firearms audits are being conducted across the LAC – information was published in the Walcha newspaper today. All properties /residents who have registered firearms will have the firearms and storage facilities checked by police. There are 5000 registered firearms within the Oxley Command.

General Business:

Cr Levingston – requests support from Oxley HWP to look into the traffic conditions on the Tia Diggings Road towards Port Macquarie – potentially dangerous for turning traffic. Consideration of a double unbroken line to stop traffic overtaking near the turn off. Council has sent a letter to RTA – no response to date.

Action: Cr Levingston to provide a copy of the letter Council forwarded to RTA to enable Mrs J. Smith to write a letter of support to RTA.

Discussion on road safety issues, specifically for teenagers. Information provided on Young Driver Expo run by police in conjunction with Tamworth Regional Council. Funding to send students from Walcha by bus discussed - \$450 approx need for the bus charter. Strategies discussed for funding.

Action: Mrs J. Smith to provide details to Ms Farrell re Driver Expo. (Dates are: 24-26 August 2010 TRC Council contact Paul Hudson – Road Safety officer 67675495)

Mr Sanders stated the school has a good relationship with the police officers at Walcha. He has found them to be very supportive and helpful towards the school.

Mr Sanders agreed to provide information to the police in respect of after hours activities/events to ensure police can be rostered accordingly.

Suggested Guests for next meeting:

Ms Mary Hoare, Chairperson of the Mental Health Committee
 Ms Shirley Davison – Aboriginal Elder – Mendan Street Walcha
 Ambulance Officer – Mr David Lockette
 Action: Mrs Smith to arrange.

Meeting closed 11.45am Minutes: J. Smith

Next Meeting – 27 April 2010 – 11am Walcha Council Chambers