

LACHLAN LOCAL AREA COMMAND

COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT MEETING

DATE: 19 April 2010

TIME: 10.45AM

VENUE: PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL

ATTENDEES: Acting Superintendent Scott Rayner – Commander, Lachlan LAC
Ken Keith – Mayor, Parkes Shire Council
John Magill – Deputy Mayor, Parkes Shire Council
Allan McCormack - General Manager, Parkes Shire Council
Graham Falconer – Councillor, Forbes Shire Council
Carissa Bywater – General Manager, Forbes Shire Council
Sheridan Alexander – Executive Officer, Lachlan LAC

APOLOGIES: Dawn Fardell - Member for Dubbo
Phyllis Miller – Mayor, Forbes Shire Council

Address by Acting Superintendent Rayner

A/Supt. Rayner welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated that he was the Acting Commander until a substantive Commander was appointed which it is expected to occur in the next few months.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 18 January 2010 were reviewed as follows:

'Step Back Think Campaign' – A/Supt. Rayner indicated Supt. Driver had reviewed the campaign and determined the strategies were not appropriate for implementation at Lachlan Command as they were more relevant to areas with excessive alcohol related assaults.

Reduction to Speed Limit on Newell Highway – Further discussion was held regarding this issue and the meeting questioned whether there had been an increase of drivers speeding since the reduction was introduced. A/Supt. Rayner indicated an increase in the number of Infringement Notices had been experienced however this is due to Highway Patrol now being fully staffed. Police are continuing to conduct Operations on the highway which target speeding and other issues such as regular breaks for truck drivers. Police are utilising other strategies such as unmarked highway patrol vehicles to detect offences. The meeting queried the number of Infringement Notice issued to driver caught speeding whilst overtaking. A/Supt. Rayner explained a breakdown of offences was not readily available however could be obtained for review at the next meeting.

ACTION: A/Supt. Rayner to obtain a breakdown of Infringements Notice issued since the speed limit reduction on the Newell Highway.

Crime – A/Supt. Rayner provided an overview of the crime categories for the period January to March 2010. This Command is over the Business Plan targets for Assaults and Robberies.

A/Supt. Rayner indicated this Command's Pro-activity results for January and February had been poor and below the targets, however, results have improved in March. As previously indicated this is partially due to the change in recording Move Ons, as only incident is recorded when multiple persons are given a direction to 'Move On'.

In respect to crime statistics for 'Break, Enter and Steal', these incidents are mainly occurring at residential dwellings. There has been a recent spate of incidences at Lake Cargelligo where premises such as canteens are being targeted and minor items like food and small change are being stolen. There have been similar incidences in Condobolin, with a number of youths arrested recently in relation to these matters. A number of strategies are being utilised by local police to address these incidences such as Bail Compliance Checks.

Rural Crime statistics for this Command are good, with a decrease in the number of reported incidences and a high rate of Pro-activity.

MOU with Dept. of Housing - Discussion was held in respect to the Memorandum of Understanding police have introduced with Dept. of Housing which have assisted police in dealing with the neighbourhood disputes in Cedar Crescent at Forbes. A/Supt. Rayner indicated the problems appear to have settled down in the last month or so. Police have also focused on patrolling the area and conducting Bail Compliance Checks which appears to have deterred some of the problems.

CCTV Camera in Forbes CBD - A/Supt. Rayner indicated when reviewed the crime statistics since the installation of the cameras at Forbes, there has been decrease in Assaults by 13%, Break and Enters by 2% and Street Offences by 22%. These statistics include the CBD area monitored by CCTV and also the surrounding streets. Ms Bywater indicated local business were able to buy their own camera and link it to the current CCTV system.

Drug Detections - Discussion was held in respect to the number of Drug Detections, 79 detections recorded in this Command year to date. This is a good result compared to number of detections for the same period last year. A/Supt. Rayner explained an increase in detections is a good result and indicates that Pro-activity such as person and vehicle searches are being conducted.

This Command's TAG Unit is focused on property crime and drug supply. The two officers in the Unit prioritise their workload to address problem areas across the Command. Sector police are still involved in investigating drug activity rather than leaving such investigations to TAG or Detectives. For example, Forbes Police conducted an Operation last month which focused on drug detections and supply. The Operation involved the use of drug dogs to target houses and pubs.

Alcohol Related Assaults - The statistics for Assaults each area were reviewed, which included assaults occurring at both residential and licensed premises. The number of Alcohol Related Assaults which occurred at licensed premises has declined compared to last year. The Licensing Officer is an enthusiastic officer and is taking a hard stance to address licensing issues across the Command. There is been no new directive for police in respect to licensing issues, police are simply taking appropriate action when licensees fail to comply with licensing legislation.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to be tabled.

Deployment/Vacancies

In respect to deployment of staff, A/Supt. Rayner advised this Command applies for funding to conduct 'Operation Vikings' each month which target anti-social behaviour, mainly in CBD areas. This Command's Highway Patrol also receives funding each month from the RTA. As previous indicated, this Command now has a full contingency of Highway Patrol officers.

Currently there are three vacant positions at Parkes and one at Condobolin, whilst Forbes has full staffing numbers. It was discussed there are only two police residences at Condobolin which may be an issue when attracting applicants for this position.

The vacant Commanders position is currently being advertised and should be filled prior to the end of the financial year.

This Command will not receive any Pro-Constables from the class graduating in May. There is a large class commencing in later this year and it is expected this Command would receive a number of officers when the class graduates.

General Business

Media Releases by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) - Mayor Keith raised the issue of Media Releases by NDARC regarding 'high risk' weekends which occur in Parkes and Forbes. The risk rating relates to occurrences of alcohol related crimes. Mayor Keith questioned whether these releases are still relevant. A/Supt. Rayner indicated the NDARC have indicated 'high risk' ratings for particular weekends, however, in reviewing previous occurrences in these period police considered the ratings were not warranted. The historical data utilised by the NDARC to determine their risk rating may not be valid. Whilst police review historical data, events are considered year by year on an individual basis and a police response is formulated accordingly.

Licensing issue re Picnic Races – Licensing restrictions which were enforced at last years Race Meeting will be remain for this years' event. A/Supt. Indicated police need to be consistent and that compliance was general good last year. From a policing prospective, it's about changing the attitude of the patrons concerning the sale of alcohol in previous years.

Tedfest – The licensing issues concerning this event held at the Show Ground was discussed. Police attended the venue following a number of noise complaints being received. Whilst in attendance police detected licensing offences and subsequently issued the Licensee with Infringements Notices for these breaches. A/Supt. Rayner indicated the response by police was appropriate and justified.

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONING MEMBER
Review of Traffic Infringements - A/Supt. Rayner to obtain a breakdown of Infringements Notice issued since the speed limit reduction on the Newell Highway.	A/Supt. Rayner

Next Meeting - Monday 19 July 2010 @ Condobolin Shire Council

MEETING CLOSED