

BARWON LAC

Community Safety Precinct Committee Minutes 22 August 2011

Report to Crime Prevention Partnership August 2011

Town & Country Club, BOGGABILLA

Attending Agencies/Community members

| | | | |
|---------|----------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jenny | Hayes | Superintendent | Barwon Local Area Command |
| Steve | Laksa | Acting Crime Manager | Barwon Local Area Command |
| Adam | Bartlett | Acting Inspector | Barwon Local Area Command |
| Jason | Ronczka | DVLO & Crime Coordinator | Barwon Local Area Command |
| Crystal | Jones | YLO | Barwon Local Area Command |
| Jo | White | Analyst | Barwon Local Area Command |
| Annie | Colbran | MSPC (Moree Plains Shire Council) | Moree Plains Shire Council |
| Richard | Doyle | | Moree Plains Shire Council |
| Nathan | Noal | Acting Sergent Boggabilla | Barwon Local Area Command |
| Adam | Summers | Boomi | Barwon Local Area Command |
| John | Byrne | Boggabilla (LUK) | Barwon Local Area Command |
| Garry | Irvine | Boggabilla | Barwon Local Area Command |
| Ben | Crews | Boggabilla | Barwon Local Area Command |

Community members

Meeting Opened: 17:39

Apologies:

Ros Laws – Department of Housing

Teresa Oakenfull – Moree Family Support

Rohan Vaughn – Department of Human Services

| Action Items | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Intended Outcome | Agreed Strategies | Partner Agencies/Community member | Timeframe |
| Regular meetings with Police and community | Meetings to be held quarterly | NSW Police | Immediate – next meeting for August |
| <i>COMPLETED – Meetings now scheduled quarterly with a review of previous three months crime</i> | | | |
| Improve communication | Concerns raised as to diversion of calls from Boggabilla to Moree | NSW Police | Immediate – response for next meeting |
| <i>COMPLETED – Supt HAYES has spoken with both Moree and Boggabilla Officers regarding concerns from community – new procedures in place for diversions to station mobile also to avoid transfer of calls when Police are on duty</i> | | | |

Meeting opened by Richard DOYLE – welcomed all attendees and made introductions of Police

Local Crime Type Priorities

Supt HAYES gave a Presentation on Crime: Crime has continued to trend down during May, June, July following earlier spikes in property and vehicle offences; Increase in same offences in early August following arrival of number of offenders back in town for court; Arrests have been made in mid-August which are expected to have a positive impact; Recent increase in arson offences by young persons is concerning as we move into spring and summer/

Presentation included a review of crime and charges with Supt HAYES highlighting ongoing issues of alcohol as an associated factor in all crime categories (something which was also spoken about in depth at previous meeting).

Presentation also covered increased deployments of TAG and Flying Squad to assist Boggabilla Police.

Number of issues raised by Police including:

- Not following through with statements prohibits action available by Police
- Over representing of crime when phoning Police (eg. Stating that weapons are present when they aren't)

Supt Hayes also highlighted current spate of scamming being experienced across the Region and repeated Crime Managers warnings sent via media this week.

Discussion Items:

Discussion regarding rosters from last meeting and concerns from the community about large chunks of time without Police rostered – a review of the roster now sees rosters with almost seven days coverage and a focus on PM shifts – court, illness and annual leave do impact on the success of this

Communication with Police: Boggabilla is not a 24 hour station however the current Boggabilla rostering provides better coverage and the local phones can now be diverted to Boggabilla station mobile when on duty – Supt Hayes asked that the community consider mobile coverage difficulties and if they can't be contacted, please call Moree. Police at Moree have been spoken to regularly to highlight the difficulties and concerns of the Boggabilla community to address this. Supt Hayes expressed that Police are there to address crime and can not stay in the station to answer phone.

Supt Hayes was asked why the mobile phone could not be contacted when staff weren't rostered on – further to this one member of the community stated he had rung Police (through to Moree) last week about a motorbike lapping the Police Station with YP's on board, it was clear they knew there were no Police on and appear to think it is a joke nothing can be done – community members feel that this is an accident waiting to happen, there are no Police about during the day and that possibly a lynch mob may happen to take matters into their own hands before Police can be recalled. Supt Hayes stated firstly that Officers need their rest time, if no one is working the phone will divert to Moree. Secondly the politics is that Boggabilla does not currently warrant a 24 hour station – we are doing our best to address the roster and supplementing this with TAG and Flying Squad shifts as a surprise element whether Police are on or not. Supt Hayes acknowledged that many of these issues are the same issues raised last meeting but despite our best efforts with rostering some factors can't be rostered around such as sickness and calls for operational assistance (eg. OSG). Communication is also likely to be an ongoing issue which we will continue to address with staff but on a whole improvements have been made.

Issue rose from the floor that whenever a call goes to Moree they are told that no one is working in Boggabilla – maybe this is also a ploy of the crooks?

Community wanted to ask about restitution/compensation for victims of stolen motor vehicles etc. – Supt Hayes stated that only court can order compensation but acknowledged that Officers should keep in touch with their victims to inform them of progress to their case and should they be needed at court. Supt Hayes conceded to address this area of victim follow up with all staff.

Further discussion has been had in relation to a NSW/QLD Police Patrol but that State legislation will always be an issue against any local agreements as Qld is not required to carry video on their Tasers but legislatively NSW are – Queensland Police Commissioner is agreed to the concept but it may be a long road ahead of us before something like this is real – at present local relationships continue to be fostered and work well with information exchange and operational issues.

Concerns were raised from the floor regarding current state of stolen motor vehicles and lack of service from SOCO (Supt Hayes stated that unfortunately today's presentation did not formally address August offences but acknowledged any lack of SOCO attendance needed to be addressed ASAP – see Action).

Community members wanted to know how many Police are stationed at Boggabilla and how many live in the town? Supt Hayes stated that five (5) Officers are stationed in Boggabilla with three (3) living in town as well as currently having the support of SC Noal whilst Sgt Fraser is on sick leave.

Concerns raised by members of the community in relation to YP's starting fires around town – what is happening with the offenders – will they receive some sort of support/counselling? Supt Hayes confirmed that a number of YP's have been spoken to along with their parents. Cst Jones detailed the process of the Young Offenders Act and the difficulties that this poses and how it can be quite traumatic for young persons especially those without family support. General comments from the community highlighted their concerns that any effort made to address the parents of these offenders probably won't help but maybe intervention from other agencies could.

Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer: Community asked where is he, when will he be replaced, why can't he be replaced? Attendees communicated they don't feel the Boggabilla ACLO is addressing their needs and he doesn't work anyway. Supt Hayes explained to the group that some of the issues raised (such as intervening on a criminal act) are not the job of an ACLO – some understanding must be given to the difficulties for his position and that it is not culturally appropriate nor logistically possible for another ACLO to act in his position whilst he is on sick leave.

Attendee stated he had concerns that Police weren't acting on the general concerns of the community but only for some families and expressed his concerns regarding a matter some months ago with his daughters in Goondiwindi and Boggabilla (A/Insp Bartlett took details privately for further follow up). Supt Hayes explained that Boggabilla Police can not take action against offences committed in Goondiwindi only Boggabilla. Insp Laksa and A/Insp Bartlett further explained the process of call outs and that all crime, regardless of the victim's surnames, are responded to as best they can at all hours of the day/night. It was further explained that even with changes to the rosters calls still come which require a risk assessment to see if Police should be recalled or attended to by Mungindi, Moree or Goondiwindi Police/Ambulance. We have a commitment to use our resources as best we can without fatigue but we can't always rely on Queensland to back us up as they too have the same issues.

Community suggested CCTV which was referred to Moree Plains Shire Council.

Curfews: Supt Hayes explained the use of bail conditions to curb offences, particularly at night. Attendees also asked about implementing a night curfew on all children. Mr Laksa explained that the reason many young people are on the streets at night is due to it not being safe at home due to alcohol, drugs and domestic violence.

Lizzy Bartholomew wanted to know why Police/SOCO had not provided her with outcome of examination of stolen motor vehicle/quad bike 14.02.11 – Supt Hayes explained to the group the process for fingerprinting, examination and results – A/Insp Bartlett took details to follow up and communicate back to Ms Bartholomew.

One new resident (name withheld) stated in the six weeks since they had arrived they had experienced many sleepless nights due to fear of becoming a victim of crime and suggested they form a community group to conduct patrols similar to the New York 'Angels' group.. Supt Hayes does not condone vigilante action which can be dangerous.

Richard Doyle thanked attending Police for their presence.

Meeting Closed: 6.45pm

Next Meeting: TBA

Agreed updates to Crime Prevention Action Plan

| Intended Outcome | Agreed Strategies | Partner Agencies/Community member | Timeframe |
|---|---|--|------------------|
| Non attendance of SOCO to SMV this past weekend | Investigate statements made by victim as to why SOCO did not attend | NSW Police | Immediate |
| Improved Victim follow up | Supt Hayes to highlight customer service issues to Police and encourage feedback/victim follow up on crime reported., | NSW Police | Immediate |
| Answers to perceived lack of action | A/Insp Bartlett agreed to investigate claims calls not responded to (details of names, dates, times taken privately by A/Insp Bartlett – not for minutes) | NSW Police | Immediate |
| Answers to perceived lack of action | A/Insp Bartlett agreed to investigate claims no follow up from Police and SOCO to Liz Bartholomew | NSW Police | Immediate |