

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, 11 March 2009 at the Walgett Shire Council Chambers, commencing at 10.03 am.

1. PRESENT

Superintendent Mark Gallagher (Chairperson)	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Inspector Chris Taylor	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Inspector Colin Cracknell	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Inspector Tony Mureau	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Natalie Dunstan (Minute Secretary)	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Jack Baker	Ratepayer
Gail Simpson	Department of Education and Training
Narelle Winters	Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service
Beryl Stacpoole	Ratepayer
Lynn Field	Youth Off the Streets
Chris Ford	Ratepayer
Rob Rubie	Ratepayer
Lisa Wallace	National Australia Bank. Walgett
Gina Josephs	National Australia Bank Walgett
Don Lillyman	Ratepayer
Anne Dennis	Community Facilitator Walgett and Collarenebri
Joe Mylan	Proprietor Ampol Service Station, Walgett
Monique Gorham	Case Manager Coonamble Aboriginal Wellbeing Project
Brianna Dennis	MRCS Reconnect
Lynne White	Ratepayer
Tanya Hind	Community Development Officer Coonamble Aboriginal Wellbeing Project
Peter Flowers	Coonamble High School
Narelle Andrews	PS and NI Andrew's Meat Service, Walgett
Di Kelly	Kelly's Property Sales
John McGovern	Personal / Walgett Carpet Cleaning
M Chapman	Personal
Terry Larkin	Proprietor of Jenny's Store
Barry Wright	Personal
Jacinda Scutt	The Gate Video Store, Walgett
Wayne Newman	Namoi House Incorporated
Gavin Schmetzer	Walgett Newsagency
Ray Kent	General Manager, Walgett Shire Council
John Nolan	Nolan's on the Barwon
Catherine Bott	Rural Financial Counsellor
Danielle Osborne	Walgett Shire Council
Kelly Russell	Youth Off the Streets
Shane Roberts	Walgett Shire Council
Lisa Ireland	Personal
Shirley Mitchell	Mitchells Walgett and Walgett Ratepayers
Christina Johansson	Yawarra Meamei Women's Group Incorporated
Beau Riley	Walgett Police
Ron Fuller	Centrelink
Helen Smanv	Centrelink
Bill Chapman	Walgett Tyre and Machinery Service
Cath Gudgeon	Ratepayer
Jodi Hunt	Community Member
Kelly Rowe	Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service
Chris Perrin	Ratepayer

2. APOLOGIES

Chief Inspector Bob Noble
Joe Barry
Kylie Kennedy
Lyn Rummery
Lavenia Small

Castlereagh Local Area Command
Landmark, Walgett
Walgett Family Violence Prevention Legal Service
Department of Education
PCYC

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Superintendent Gallagher welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the Senior Management Team.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 27 NOVEMBER 2008

Minutes of the Community Safety Precinct Meeting held on 27 November 2008 were distributed to those attendees at the meeting.

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved, Moved Narelle Andrews, Seconded Jacinda Scutt that the Minutes of the Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting held on 27 November 2008 be confirmed.

Carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD 27 NOVEMBER 2008

4.1 Support Letters from Community Members

Following the last meeting, it was agreed that Senior Constable Preston liaise with Mrs Andrews of PS and NI Andrews Meat Service, Walgett regarding support letters from community members in relation to the strategies already identified across the Command.

It was noted that further discussions needed to be held regarding this matter.

4.2 Strategies Identified in Safety Audit

At the previous meeting it was agreed that Superintendent Gallagher make arrangements to meet with Walgett Shire Council's General Manager, Mr Ray Kent to discuss strategies identified within the Safety Audit and ways in which the strategies might be able to be implemented / actioned etc.

Superintendent Gallagher informed the meeting that he was aware that Council had recently discussed a number of initiatives, however would make arrangements to meet with General Manager, Ray Kent.

ACTION:

That Superintendent Gallagher make arrangements to meet with Walgett Shire Council's General Manager, Mr Ray Kent to discuss strategies identified within the Safety Audit and ways in which the strategies might be able to be implemented / actioned etc.

4.3 Visibility of Police

It was requested at the previous meeting that a stronger focus be placed on higher visibility of Police on the Streets across the Castlereagh Local Area Command.

Superintendent Gallagher informed the meeting that every effort was being made to ensure high visibility of Police across the Command.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD 27 NOVEMBER 2008 - continued

4.4 Follow Up Procedures

At the previous meeting it was requested that attention be given to improving follow up procedures and ensuring victim follow up, general information is conveyed and that there is open/clear communication occurring at all times.

Superintendent Gallagher reiterated the Customer Service focus that has been implemented with the Police and stated that this matter would continue to be a focus at all times.

5. OPEN FORUM FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Discussions were going to be held regarding Police Visibility / Deployment, Crime Presentation etc, however there was some angst with some people attending the meeting due to the recent break and enters in the township of Walgett.

Superintendent Gallagher informed the meeting that due to the concerns being raised early in the meeting, that he would open the meeting and invite anyone wishing to discuss particular matters to do so.

Below is a summary of matters raised during the open forum presentation:-

5.1 Break and Enters

There were general discussions held regarding the recent break and enters and in particular what Police were doing to address these concerns. There was a large amount of frustration being expressed by victims of these incidents and assistance was being sought from the Police.

Superintendent Gallagher reiterated to everyone that Police were doing everything possible to address the matters and encouraged members of the community to report any information that was available.

5.2 Abandoned BAC (Barwon Aboriginal Community Hall) Building

The abandoned Barwon Aboriginal Community Hall (former BAC Building) located in Fox Street, Walgett was referred to as an area that needed to be addressed. The area regularly attracts youth and it is deemed unsafe and community members were seeking that attention be given to address these concerns.

5.3 Repeat Offenders

Concerns were raised by community members that it appeared that there were a number of repeat offenders. Information was sought on what could be done to address these concerns.

Superintendent Gallagher advised that a continued focus needed to be placed on the repeat offenders to be bail refused. Superintendent Gallagher also informed the meeting that those offenders on bail were visited daily by Officers to ensure they are complying with their bail conditions.

5.4 Senior Officer's Group

Superintendent Gallagher informed the meeting that he had recently met with the Premier's Department to discuss the introduction of a *Senior Officer's Group*.

This group proactively works with individuals, locations, families etc and provides the power to bring key agencies together to actively address matters of concern within local communities.

Superintendent Gallagher stated that this initiative required support from this meeting.

5. OPEN FORUM FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS - CONTINUED

5.4 Senior Officer's Group - continued

ACTION:

That representatives from this meeting form a working group to assist Police address matters of concern to the community.

The following community representatives were nominated:-

- **Lyn White**
- **John McGovern**
- **Narelle Winters**
- **Gavin Schmetzer**
- **Narelle Andrews**
- **Jacinda Scutt**

5.5 Responses by Police

A number of matters were discussed regarding response by Police and in particular the following:-

- *Break and Enter – no follow up action taken other than providing an event number*
- *Attendance at Break and Enter – Officer not prepared, no pen, no consideration to victims etc*
- *Fingerprinting – delay in attendance, no contact made advising of delay etc*
- *General Lack of Communication by Police*

5.6 Overview on General Matters of Concern

A number of community members raised different matters of concern and below is a summary of issues discussed:-

- *Case Management Matters – if this information could be circulated*
- *Crime Prevention Committee – previously operated and could be re-launched*
- *Intelligence Information – the need for community members to submit this information to Police*
- *Whole of Government Approach – the importance of seeking support from all government agencies*
- *Alcohol in Homes – the concerns that this matter poses*

5.7 Lighting

The lighting in the township of Walgett was addressed and in particular the lack of lighting.

Walgett Shire Council's General Manager, Mr Ray Kent informed the meeting that there had been approval of some Federal Government Funding which would assist to address lighting and the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV).

Mr Kent stated that the Council will work with the Police to address these matters.

5.8 Youth Issues

Discussions were held regarding youth matters and ways in which issues of concern involving the youth could be addressed.

It was suggested that youth matters in general needed to be considered and that a proactive approach needed to be implemented to ensure that there were always activities for children to participate in.

5. OPEN FORUM FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS - CONTINUED

5.8 Youth Issues – continued

Inspector Mureau acknowledged that there is a major problem with youth however stressed the importance of the need to address the problems in the homes that maybe causing the youth to commit the crimes that are being committed.

5.9 Communities of Lightning Ridge / Goodooga and Coonamble

Superintendent Gallagher extended his apologies to representatives from Lightning Ridge / Goodooga and Coonamble and assured them that the approach taken following this meeting would include them.

Inspector Cracknell (Northern Zone Duty Officer) met with representatives from Lightning Ridge / Goodooga to discuss particular areas of concern.

Inspector Taylor (Southern Zone Duty Officer) met with representatives from Coonamble / Gulargambone to discuss particular areas of concern.

5.10 Interagency Meetings, Community Working Party and Service Providers

It was agreed that members of the Walgett Interagency Group, Community Working Party and Service Providers needed to be involved with the Precinct Meetings to ensure all areas of concern were being addressed.

5.11 Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Community Precinct Meeting would be held in the evening to allow more people the opportunity to attend should they choose to.

6. SUMMARY OF MATTERS DISCUSSED AND ACTION SOUGHT

In summary the following matters were discussed and assistance sought:-

- 1. That a Working Group be formed to assist Police identify and address areas of concern and that Superintendent Gallagher arrange a suitable date and time for a meeting to be held with the Working Group.**
- 2. That a Whole of Government approach be taken to ensure that all agencies are working in the one direction and focussing on achieving positive outcomes to help address the areas of concern within the individual communities.**
- 3. That further information be sought to assist with the establishment of a Senior Officer's Group.**
- 4. That a focus be placed on better communication from Police to community members.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.30 am.

**Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 May 2009
commencing at 10.00 am in the Walgett Shire Council Chambers**