

**NEW ENGLAND LOCAL AREA COMMAND
MINUTES OF ARMIDALE/URALLA/GUYRA PACT
HELD AT NEW ENGLAND LAC
6th OCTOBER, 2011
COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM**

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Present: Supt Lyons, Det Insp Stier, Mr Richard Torbay MP, Member for Northern Tablelands; Mr Peter Ducat, Mayor Armidale Dumaresq Council; Mr Hans Hietbrink, Mayor, Guyra Shire Council; Mr Michael Pearce, Deputy Mayor, Uralla Shire Council; Mr Steve Widders, Aboriginal Representative; Ms Rhonda Lees, UNE; S/C Vaughan; Chris Milne Executive Officer

APOLOGIES: Insp Matt Lynch, Inspector Rod Shoesmith, Ms Eve Woodberry, Ms Isabelle Strutt, Mr Roy Wheatley.

WELCOME: Welcome by Supt Lyons.

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

BUSINESS ARISING:

Mr Lyons and Mr Torbay will arrange to attend Goulburn Police Academy regarding promoting New England LAC

Taxi drivers have been spoken to by the TAG unit regarding issues at Giraween. They were pleased to be asked for their input and will report any information as it arises.

CRIME REPORTS

Presentation given by Mr Stier re crime in New England by using COMPASS and Crime Trends Tool. Detailed explanation of crime trends provided.

Ms Lees raised issues re the underreporting of sexual assault particularly at the University. She asked if legal action rates could be released. Insp Stier is happy to work with the UNE re information that can be provided to students.

ACTION: Insp Stier to consult with Ms Lees so information can be provided.

From Mr Widders – request that YLO or other police attend Aboriginal Justice Advisory Group. Currently ACLO attends only.

ACTION: Det Insp Stier and S/C Vaughan to attend as required.

Circle sentencing – Not working well at present, but improving.

ACTION: Commander will liaise with Mr Widders to assist.

From Commander – Police visibility is improving in towns. They need to engage with the community.

Staffing levels - Uralla one down – but this should be filled in the short term. New detective coming to Armidale. Other vacancies are being filled. Getting a large number of Probationary Constables for Armidale and Inverell soon. This means outstations will not have to support Armidale as much.

Long term sick is lower than other commands but is still of concern.

INTERAGENCY DEVELOPMENT

MOU's have been signed between agencies and even QLD re release of information. This is working well. Government is about to appoint a Cross Border Commissioner which will assist in information flow and cooperation between states.

MATTERS OF INTEREST

Mr Torbay – Gave a speech to Parliament on police numbers, the practical impact of long term sick and what increase is required to boost police numbers. Speech tabled.

Mr Pearce – Issues with parking semi's in town. Same issues in Armidale and Guyra. Issues are that you want these people to live and work in town, but parking is an issue and complaints are received from other residents.

ACTION: Local police in Uralla and Guyra to approach both Council and nominated truck drivers to attempt to work out a solution to this problem. It may be that Council will have to identify appropriate parking.

Mr Ducat – Congratulations to the Command on good crime figures. New public housing now opened. Mainly noise issues being reported. Police are visiting and interacting with the Dept of Housing. Appreciate the efforts of police in the Community Safety meeting.

S/C Vaughan gave presentation on Blue Light Disco's

Firearm and drug dog being stationed in Armidale in the near future.

Mr Widders raised issues in the Mall with skateboards and sight impaired persons and small children.

ACTION: Insp Stier will action and report.

Meeting closed 11.15am