

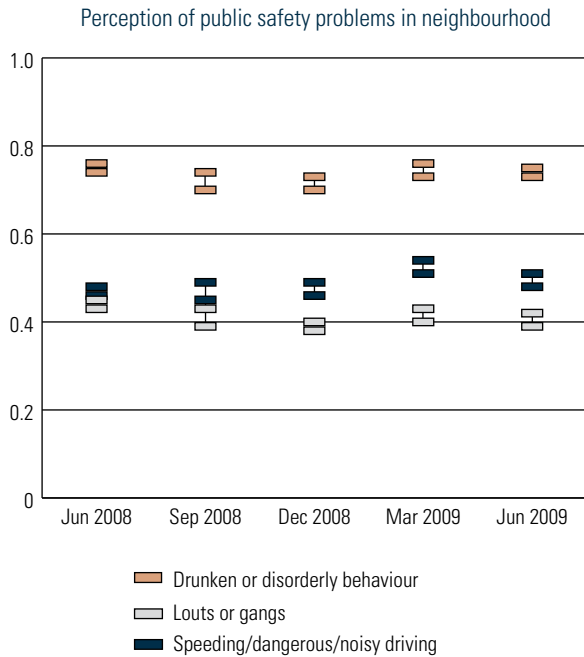
## section two **PUBLIC SAFETY**

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## PUBLIC SAFETY and THE STATE PLAN (R3)

This year public safety, and reduced fear and perception of crime has been driven by the State Plan Priority R3: Reduced rates of antisocial behaviour.



Source: National Community Satisfaction with Policing Survey

## WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE:

### TARGETS:

- Reduce problems with louts, noisy neighbours, public drunkenness and hoons.

### CORE STRATEGIES

#### EMPLOYED IN 2008-09:

- Reduce perception and fear of crime
- Reduce levels of antisocial behaviour
- Target traffic enforcement
- Share core messages to address fear and perception
- Provide safety from acts of terrorism in New South Wales
- Provide safety during major events.

## PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS

The community's perception of public order problems improved during 2008-09. The percentage of people considering an issue to be a problem in the local neighbourhood changed:

- dangerous or noisy driving – down 4 percentage points
- louts or youth gangs – down 3 percentage points
- vandalism, graffiti and other property damage – down 2 percentage points
- drunkenness – down 4 percentage points
- illegal drugs – down by 8 percentage points
- physical assault – down by 6 percentage points.





State Plan strategies of reduced perception and fear of crime, reduced levels of antisocial behaviour, targeted traffic enforcement, and sharing of core messages to address fear and perception of crime translated into operational results.

**We increased community engagement**

**We're supporting victims of crime**

The NSW Police Force is building stronger victim support in all crime areas. We have revised our victim support policy and procedures and victims card, to focus more on police commitments under the *Charter of Victims Rights*. These initiatives also complement and reflect a strong emphasis on empathy with victims of crime under our *Customer Service Charter*, which is outlined on page 7, 8 and 9 of this report.

**We're working with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities**

Guided by the Government's Strategic Framework 2007-2012 *Working Together: Preventing violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people*, the NSW Police Force has been involved in a number of partnership projects to build trust and confidence in police and to encourage the reporting of crimes. World AIDS Day on 1 December, the Mardi Gras Festival in February/March and the International Day Against Homophobia in May were supported by police gay and lesbian liaison officers (GLLOs), other specialist officers such as school liaison police, and the NSW Police Band.

**We're enabling local solutions to local problems**

Community Safety Precinct Committees have been established in each local area command, to help us to know and understand the policing needs of local communities. The committees have a broad community base and include representatives from resident groups, Community Safety Precinct Committees, domestic violence and youth groups.

**We improved coordination of visible authority**

**Operation Vikings supported police at local area commands, the Marine Area Command and Traffic Services**

High visibility policing (HVP) is the deliberate increase of police presence in the community through targeted tasking and deployment to reduce crime and improve public safety; to engender public confidence; and reduce the fear of crime. Operation Vikings began in 2002 as a significant HVP strategy targeting antisocial

behaviour, alcohol related crime, street level drug possession and traffic offences.

- **Operation Vision**, supported by State Rail transit officers, was an intensive operation targeting rail corridors in metropolitan Sydney as well as in Northern and Southern Region.
- **Operation Avert** was a statewide operation targeting offenders wanted for outstanding arrest warrants and those sought for offences following identification through forensic evidence such as DNA or fingerprints.
- **Operation Waterways and Basilisk** provided funding to enable all local area commands with small boats to deploy them onto local waterways to target marine random breath testing, licensing enforcement and safety issues.
- **Operation Wolfram** targeted robbery offences in high risk areas within South West Metropolitan Region.

More police shifts were allocated to **Vikings operations** this reporting year. To effectively reduce crime and increase high visibility, some Vikings operations extended across large areas over many months.

**We're informing the public and addressing fear and perceptions of crime**

The **Police Media Unit (PMU)** provided a high level media liaison service to police and media organisations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This reporting year we issued 3,962 media releases and provided operational support to senior officers for 302 media conferences. The PMU played a crucial role this financial year in managing the media response to major incidents, emergencies, crimes and police operations.

**Public Affairs officers helped communicate major initiatives** such as the rollout of Taser electronic control devices and fingerprint scanners to general duties police. A significant media campaign was also conducted throughout December to reinforce the road safety message during the holiday period. The campaign played a part in keeping the 2008 road toll under 400 for the first time since 1945. To enhance the ability of police to communicate effectively with the community, we professionally train our officers to work with the media. More than 1,400 police officers received media training under the in-house program in 2008-09.

### **We work with the media to promote our messages and services**

Public interest in policing has never been greater. We continue to promote core police messages and highlight the good work of our officers through involvement with commercial television shows. These programs included the Nine Network's *Missing Persons Unit*, Channel Seven's *The Force* and the *Recruits* on Channel 10.

We also worked with a large number of production companies, film makers and authors looking to feature the NSW Police Force image or staff in their productions, or who were seeking expert advice on policing procedure. These productions included high profile shows such as *Crash Investigation Unit*, *Recruits*, *Beyond the Darklands* and *Gangs of Oz*.

### **We targeted antisocial behaviour**

#### **New licensing legislation and alcohol restrictions have reduced crime in Bourke**

In 2008, local police joined with community groups and other government agencies to tackle the problem of **alcohol related crime and domestic violence** head on, by restricting access to alcohol. The restrictions were implemented in February 2009 as part of a five year alcohol management plan. This resulted in an immediate reduction in both alcohol related crime and domestic violence (compared to the same period last year).

#### **Operation Taipan targets illegal street racing and dangerous driving**

Under the control of the Traffic Services Branch, **Operation Taipan** police have been detecting, disrupting and prosecuting illegal street

racers and car hoons. In almost 18 months, Operation Taipan police conducted more than 69,000 breath tests, issued more than 16,000 infringement notices to more than 8,400 people, laid more than 5,000 charges for both criminal and traffic matters, and confiscated more than 180 vehicles.

### **We targeted traffic enforcement**

#### **We increased resources committed to drug testing New South Wales drivers**

The NSW Police Force drug testing operations have become a model for other law enforcement agencies, with interstate police inspecting our procedures and adopting similar methods for their drug testing programs. We have three purpose built drug testing vehicles operating in New South Wales.

#### **Our traffic enforcement has been enhanced by new technology**

Last reporting year we began installing Lion Intoxilyzer 800 breath analyser instruments into many police stations and RBT trucks across the state. The roll out to the Sydney metropolitan area is now complete. These 'smart technology' instruments, designed by police for police, are part of our ongoing commitment to providing operational officers with better equipment and more efficient processes.

We have put 425 new radar **speed measuring devices** into our highway patrol cars and integrated them with technology such as in-car video recorders. We have 26 **automatic number plate recognition (ANPR)** instruments in operation with 718 staff trained to use them. This technology was introduced in December 2005.

### **We're encouraging responsible driving and responsible behaviour on public transport**

During the 2008 calendar year, 398 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes in New South Wales. This was 37 fewer than the previous year's record low of 435 and the lowest figure since 1945. The number of exceed speed offences detected on New South Wales roads was 219,641 in 2008, compared with 207,995 in 2007. The year 2008 saw 24,157 people injured in motor vehicle crashes compared to 25,929 in 2007; while 27,751 people were detected for drink driving offences in 2008 compared to 25,889 the previous year. Please note that figures may differ from those previously published. This is due to matters being removed from the road toll once cause of death is determined by the Coroner.

While the road toll has been at its lowest since 1945, there has been an increase in the first half of this calendar year which is not reflected in this data. The NSW Police Force is responding by using a number of enforcement strategies including targeted road operations. We are also working with a range of other agencies to reduce the road toll.

#### **We're working with our public transport partner agencies**

Together, we're working to improve the sharing of police intelligence and other information, and the deployment of resources on the network during major events.

To reduce antisocial behaviour on the transport network, we commenced a new program with Railcorp where visits by law enforcement to schools were supported by highly visible patrols of nearby railway stations after school hours.

**The Charter of Victims Rights is published in full on our website [www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au)**

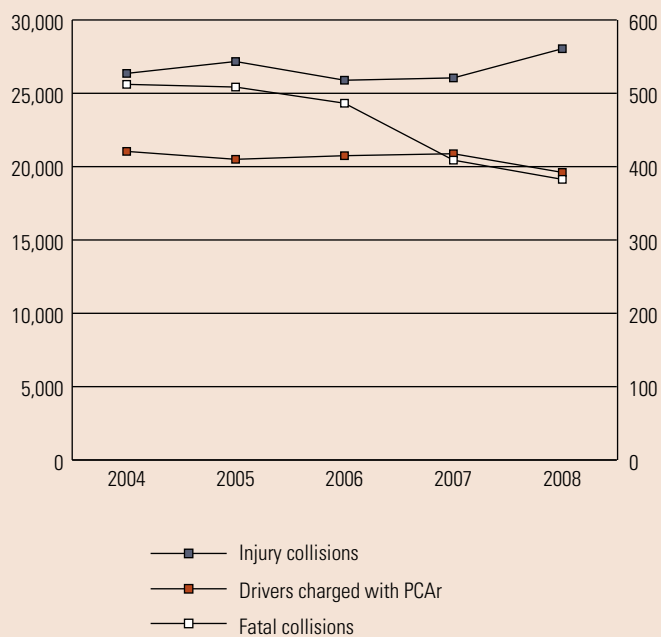


# WE'RE FOCUSSING ON ROAD SAFETY

## Context

The police response to road safety is governed by our strategies under State Plan priority R3 – Reducing antisocial behaviour, particularly hoon and noisy drivers. This is in conjunction with our partner agency responsibilities under S7 – Safer roads. Targeted police presence on the roads is intended to improve road user behaviour and lead to fewer traffic crashes and resulting trauma.

Injury and fatal crashes, PCAs



Source: NSW Police Force, Traffic Services

## Desired result

- a reduction in the number of people who perceive problems with noisy and hoon drivers in New South Wales – to be at or below the national average of 74% - 75%
- a reduction in road trauma to less than 0.74 per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled
- more random breath tests are expected to increase the perceived likelihood of being detected, resulting in fewer charges for prescribed concentration of alcohol (PCA)
- a reduction in the number of street racing incidents.

## Findings

While fatal collisions fell from 405 in 2007 to 377 in 2008, there has been an increase in the first half of this calendar year which is not reflected in this data.

There were 1,245 less injury collisions during 2008 (19,230) compared to 2007 (20,475). Random breath tests conducted by police increased by 21% in 2008 (4,204,525) compared to 3,478,116 in 2007. Charges for prescribed concentration of alcohol (PCAs) also increased, by 7.6% (28,040 in 2008 compared to 26,048 in 2007). Concern about speeding cars or dangerous driving increased by 1 percentage point.

## Future actions under the State Plan for 2009-10

### We will:

- conduct high visibility police operations at identified car hoon/street racing hot spots
- continue joint operations with partner agencies
- encourage responsible driving through enhanced traffic enforcement and targeting drag/street racing
- target traffic related antisocial behaviour.

### Note:

Factors such as road or weather conditions may contribute to road trauma. Figures provided in this section are provisional and are subject to change. Approved traffic reporting is standard based on calendar year data.





## We provide safety from acts of terrorism in New South Wales

### We are responsible for preparedness for, prevention of and response to acts of terrorism in New South Wales

The Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command (CT&ST) consists of a strong and unified team of specialists and support staff. Our four groups provide a capability across counter terrorism preparedness, prevention, response and recovery. We also provide protection for domestic and visiting dignitaries, the protection of witnesses and venues, and specialist tactics in support of domestic policing operations.

### We have implemented a robust community engagement strategy

The Community Contact Unit proactively engages relevant community groups, obtaining their support to reduce the risk and fear of terrorism. The unit also works with a number of government agencies to minimise community dissatisfaction.

The CT&ST maintains strong relationships with a variety of government agencies including the Department of Premier & Cabinet, NSW Department of Health, State Emergency Management Committee, Commonwealth Office of Transport Security, the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) and the Australian Department of Defence. We also have firm working relationships with other emergency services, such as the Ambulance Service of NSW and NSW Fire Brigades, as well as owners and operators of public transport, critical infrastructure and industries involved in handling hazardous materials.

Through the framework of the National Counter Terrorism Plan, the CT&ST Command works with interstate and national policing and government agencies to consolidate counter terrorism initiatives and investigative efforts.

## We provide safety during major events

### Bathurst races: our second operation in a five year plan to improve public safety

Officers from Western Region and the Major Events & Incidents Group targeted crowd control and public order at the V8 Supercars as part of **Operation Mountaineer** in October 2008. This successful operation was the second in a five year plan to improve public safety at the annual Supercar event.

The success of last year's operation was reflected in an increase this year in families with children camping in areas that have seen serious public order incidents in previous years.

A significant public order response was clearly visible at the camp grounds at the top of the mountain and various checkpoints leading up to the mountain and pit areas. Within the township a targeted alcohol licensing operation increased public safety at the peak periods.

## Outlook for 2009-10

- Continue to target traffic related and antisocial behaviour
- Set New South Wales crime prevention and reduction targets in line with the State Plan
- Engage with key government agencies, private sector, industry and stakeholder groups
- Monitor ongoing crime trends and lead responses to emerging problems
- Coordinate resources between three levels of government and other sectors
- Oversight of statewide crime prevention initiatives

