

## 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, 2 December 2009 in the Walgett Shire Council Chambers, commencing at 5.40 pm.

### 1. PRESENT

Acting Superintendent Bob Noble (Chairperson)	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Inspector Tony Mureau	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Natalie Dunstan (Minute Secretary)	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Carole Medcalf	Walgett Shire Council
John McGovern	Walgett Community Promotions / Ratepayer
Barry Wright	Ratepayer
Helen Wright	Ratepayer
Margaret Bow	Country Women's Association
Robert Greenaway	Councillor Walgett Shire Council
Ron Fuller	Centrelink

### 2. APOLOGIES

Kevin Humphries	Member for Barwon
Gavin and Linda Schmetzer	Walgett Newsagency
Jacinda Scutt and Joe Barry	The Gate Video Store, Walgett
Phillip and Narelle Andrews	PS and NI Andrew's Meat Service, Walgett

### 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Acting Superintendent Noble welcomed all to the meeting.

### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

Minutes of the Community Safety Precinct Meeting held on 16 September 2009 were distributed to those attendees at the meeting.

#### RESOLUTION:

**It was resolved, Moved Inspector Mureau, Seconded Acting Superintendent Noble that the Minutes of the Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting held on 16 September 2009 be confirmed with the following amendment:-**

**Item 7.2      Liquor Accord at Collarenebri**

**Minutes to reflect that a Staff Member from Walgett Shire Council attended the meeting at Collarenebri, not Ms Medcalf as recorded in the Draft Minutes**

**Carried.**

## **5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD 16 SEPTEMBER 2009**

### **5.1 Abandoned BAC (Barwon Aboriginal Community Hall) Building**

At the previous meeting discussions were held regarding the vacant Barwon Aboriginal Community Hall located in Fox Street, Walgett and that it was an unsafe area that attracted youth. Ms Medcalf had informed the meeting that representations were being made by Council to ascertain ownership.

Further advice received at this meeting was that the Barwon Aboriginal Community Hall was currently being addressed by the Walgett Lands Council who were trying to reach an agreement with the community regarding the future of the building.

The two options that were being considered were to source funding to renovate the building or to demolish the building and rebuild. It was noted that this matter is ongoing.

### **5.2 Whole of Government Approach**

At the previous meeting some discussions were held regarding a “whole of government approach” to ensure that all agencies were working in the one direction and focusing on achieving positive outcomes to address areas of concern across the communities. It was noted that the Interagency Meetings had not been convened for some time and discussions were currently being held with Premier and Cabinet who are ultimately responsible for the convening of such meetings.

Ms Medcalf advised that an Interagency Meeting had been held on Tuesday, 1 December 2009 in Walgett and that a further meeting had been scheduled to be held on 5 January 2010, commencing at 10.00 am at the Walgett Shire Council Chambers.

Acting Superintendent Noble noted that he had not been advised of the Interagency meeting that was held on 1 December 2009 and that if further meetings were going to be convened then it was important for **all** agencies and government bodies to be advised of meeting dates.

### **5.3 Lighting**

At the previous meeting the lack of lighting across the township of Walgett was discussed. It was noted that Walgett Shire Council were engaged in a lighting improvement program with Country Energy which was scheduled to commence in September 2009.

Enquiries were made as to the status of this project. Ms Medcalf informed the meeting that there were two major projects that were to be completed by Country Energy, one has been completed, however the Peel Street and CBD area in Walgett has not been completed.

Ms Medcalf advised that she had tried to make contact with the Country Energy Representative to determine where this project was up to, however there has been no response as yet from Country Energy.

Community members in attendance expressed dissatisfaction about Country Energy not attending to general routine maintenance of lights in the township of Walgett and that these matters needed to be addressed as a priority.

Acting Superintendent Noble sought comment from the meeting as to whether it would be beneficial if he was to forward a letter to Country Energy expressing concern that this project had not been completed as scheduled and in particular highlighting the concerns of poor lighting in relation to incidents of crime within the township of Walgett.

#### **ACTION:**

**That Acting Superintendent Noble forwards a letter from the Police to Country Energy expressing concern with the delay in implementing lighting improvements in Peel Street and CBD areas of Walgett Township as agreed to with Walgett Shire Council.**

### **5.3 Lighting - continued**

It was also noted that the Walgett Main Street Beautification Proposal would be discussed at a meeting to be held at the Walgett Shire Council on Wednesday, 9 December 2009, commencing at 6.00 pm and that this proposal would more than likely include the matter of lighting.

### **5.4 Pushbikes and Footballs**

It was agreed at the previous meeting that Acting Superintendent Noble would convey to Police the community grievances regarding pushbikes/scooters/footballs etc and the action of some youth and young adults particularly in the vicinity of Fox and Wee Waa Streets, Walgett and request a stronger focus to be placed on these matters.

It was noted that Acting Superintendent Noble forwarded a memorandum to Officers at Walgett requesting that Police reinforce the boundaries for young people when they are in public and particularly relating to the pushbikes, footballs etc (copy of this memorandum was included with the minutes that were circulated).

The meeting noted that the matter of footballs had improved slightly however the bikes still needed to be addressed. Of particular concern was the level crossing located on the corner of Fox and Warrena Streets where children congregate and often step out without warning when cars are entering this area. They tend to play "chicken" with the vehicles and there is concern that this is going to end in someone being seriously hurt.

Acting Superintendent Noble advised that he will remind Officer's of the need to be more stringent in addressing these particular matters.

### **5.5 Northern Territory COAG Trial**

At the previous meeting, Mr Ron Fuller discussed the Northern Territory COAG Trial.

Mr Fuller distributed at this meeting a document outlining a Federal Government Proposal which is looking to allocate 50% of social security payments across the Board in a card format that would allow the purchase of food and basic services, ie the payment of utility accounts etc.

### **5.6 Liquor Accord at Collarenebri**

At the previous meeting discussions were held regarding the introduction of a Liquor Accord Agreement in Collarenebri similar to that recently introduced in Walgett.

Acting Superintendent Noble informed the meeting that there had been a lot of angst among the licensee's and community members regarding the introduction of the Liquor Accord Agreement in Walgett, resulting in the Agreement being removed.

Acting Superintendent Noble advised the meeting that the Police were still trying to have the Liquor Accord Matters addressed as there is strong evidence to support that alcohol is contributing significantly to the assaults / domestic violence incidents that are occurring across the Command.

Acting Superintendent Noble noted that it would be beneficial if there was a consensus regarding the introduction of a Liquor Accord Agreement and that Police would prefer not to have the Agreement enforced upon licensees, however the matter needed to be addressed as a priority.

Once an Agreement is established in Walgett then it would be looked at to roll out in Collarenebri. It was noted that Coonamble and Lightning Ridge were presently working through a proposal at this time.

Mr Greenaway asked whether consideration could be given to addressing the "out-of-town" patrons who came to town from their properties and purchased alcohol in the mornings.

## 5.6 Liquor Accord at Collarenebri - continued

After discussions regarding the introduction of a Liquor Accord Agreement and the best way to accommodate everyone, it was agreed that it would be prudent for all Licensee's from across the Command to come together so the one Liquor Accord Agreement could be agreed upon and introduced right across the Local Area Command.

## 6. CRIME STATISTICS FOR CASTLEREAGH LOCAL AREA COMMAND

Inspector Mureau provided a presentation on Crime Statistics across the Castlereagh Local Area Command which displayed statistical information from November 2006 through to October 2009.

- Statistical information relating to the following categories was discussed:-

- Assaults
- Break and Enter
- Malicious Damage
- Stealing
- Stolen Motor Vehicles
- Move On's
- Person Search

## 7. OPEN FORUM – COMMUNITY MEMBERS

### 7.1 Media Coverage

Mr McGovern suggested that Walgett Police should be more proactive with media coverage to the community as this way people would be informed of what is happening and would hear more regularly that good work is occurring in the community.

It was agreed that too often the community feel that matters are not being addressed by Police, however if there was more coverage by informing people of matters that Police have addressed then this would help alleviate the perceived thoughts that nothing is occurring.

Acting Superintendent Noble informed the meeting that he had requested that a media strategy be introduced for the Command and in particular Walgett, as he believed that the Command was missing opportunities to engage in media coverage.

#### **ACTION:**

**That Acting Superintendent Noble forwards the comments of the Precinct Committee to Senior Management and that the Media Strategy for the Command is introduced as soon as possible.**

### 7.2 Police Vehicles

Barry Wright and Acting Superintendent Noble both agreed there would be benefit in using vehicles other than the Toyota Landcruiser as the youth all know its distinctive sound.

### **7.3 Break and Enters – Information Regarding Alarm System Installations**

Mr Wright enquired whether there were any statistics that showed what homes that have been the victim of break and enters had alarm systems installed.

Acting Superintendent Noble responded by advising that at this point that information could not be provided, however he would make enquiries whether this information could be retrieved.

#### **ACTION:**

**That Acting Superintendent Noble enquire whether information could be retrieved to show what houses that have been the victim of break and enters have had alarm systems installed.**

### **7.4 Walgett Police Station – 24 Hour**

Mr Wright enquired whether the Walgett Police Station was a 24 Hour Station.

Acting Superintendent Noble responded by advising that Walgett Police Station is not legislated, not staffed or not funded as a 24 Hour Police Station, however since October 2008 the Walgett Police Station has been operating 24 hours.

The Management Team agreed that for the best possible coverage, the Station needed to operate as a 24 Hour Station and this is being managed to provide the necessary coverage.

### **7.5 Fingerprinting Jobs**

Mr Fuller asked the status of fingerprinting jobs being completed as someone who he was aware of had been waiting for some time for the fingerprinting to be completed at their home.

Acting Superintendent Noble and Inspector Mureau informed the meeting that the newly appointed Scene of Crimes Officer (SOCO) for Walgett had only commenced work on Tuesday, 1 December 2009 which should now assist in jobs being attended to earlier than what has been experienced.

Inspector Mureau advised Mr Fuller that he would note the information relating to this particular matter outside of the meeting and check on Thursday morning regarding the status of this job.

**Note: Mr McGovern, Mr Greenaway and Mrs Bow departed the meeting at 6.45 pm**

### **7.6 Commander to Attend Walgett Shire Council Meeting**

Ms Medcalf advised Acting Superintendent Noble that at the last Council Meeting it was resolved that an invitation be extended to Acting Superintendent Noble to attend the next Council Meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 15 December 2009.

Acting Superintendent Noble acknowledged the invitation and advised that he was engaged in Police Traineeship Interviews on this date, however requested that Ms Medcalf forwards the invitation to him regarding times etc so that he could address the request.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.50 pm

**Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 24 March 2010  
commencing at 5.45 pm in the Walgett Police Station Meeting Room**