

MINUTES OF THE CASTLEREAGH LOCAL AREA COMMAND COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT COMMITTEE MEETING – LIGHTNING RIDGE

The following are minutes of the Castlereagh Local Area Command Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 19 October 2011 in the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club, commencing at 11.07 am.

1. PRESENT

Acting Superintendent Tony Mureau	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Acting Inspector Mark Hoath (Chairperson)	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Sergeant Phil Cleathero	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Natalie Dunstan (Minute Secretary)	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Tiarni Burtenshaw	Castlereagh Local Area Command
Liz Smith	Yawarra Meamei Women's Group
Peter Collison	Lightning Ridge Health
Chris Tome	Lightning Ridge Central School
Ana Cvejic-Vastag	Transcultural Community Council Incorporated
Maxine O'Brien	Lightning Ridge Miners Association
Josephine Mack	Trade and Investment New South Wales (Mines Dept)
Janet Town	Trade and Investment New South Wales (Mines Dept)
Alison Wheeler	Safe Families
Christina Johansson	Yawarra Meamei Women's Group Incorporated

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Acting Inspector Hoath welcomed all to the meeting and provided an overview on the purpose of Community Safety Precinct Committees and current staffing arrangements for Lightning Ridge.

4. CRIME STATISTICS FOR CASTLEREAGH LOCAL AREA COMMAND

Acting Inspector Hoath provided a presentation on Crime Statistics for the township of Lightning Ridge.

- Statistical information relating to the following categories was discussed:-
 - Assaults
 - Break and Enter
 - Malicious Damage
 - Stealing
 - Stolen Motor Vehicles
 - Move On's
 - Person Search
 - Drug Detections

Based on the information that was disseminated discussions were held in relation to how some incidents are categorised when reported including the following:-

- Mining Matters
- Domestic Violence and Assaults

Acting Inspector Hoath advised that from a Policing perspective, the Lightning Ridge Community work very well and this is reflected in the crime statistics for this township.

Mr Tome, Principal of Lightning Ridge Central School advised that he would be interested in noting the juvenile crime rates for matters at Lightning Ridge.

Acting Inspector Hoath responded to this enquiry and said that this information could be sought should it be required.

Information was sought in relation to Domestic Violence statistics and Acting Inspector Hoath advised that he will seek this information by the end of today's meeting.

5. COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES

Acting Inspector Hoath invited representatives in attendance to ask questions or offer any comments etc following the presentation of the crime statistics.

Reporting of Matters

There were some discussions held in relation to reporting of matters and that at times there is some reluctance from community members to attend the local Police Station to report matters.

Sergeant Cleathero responded and advised that should people want to report matters, then they should be encouraged to attend the local Police Station however could always phone the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 to report.

Comments from Acting Superintendent Mureau

Acting Superintendent Mureau welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the importance of hosting the Community Safety Precinct Committee Meetings.

Acting Superintendent Mureau reiterated the comments of Acting Inspector Hoath and how the crime statistics for the township of Lightning Ridge were tracking down and that this was contributed to the work of the local Police and the community as a whole.

Acting Superintendent Mureau informed the meeting that Community Engagement was a strong focus with the New South Wales Police Force at present.

Acting Superintendent Mureau discussed the new project being introduced across the New South Wales Police Force known as "Eyewatch". This project will give community members the opportunity to participate in crime prevention activities and that the project would be like a "neighbourhood watch by facebook".

Comments from Ms Wheeler – Safe Families

Ms Wheeler noted the transfer of Senior Constable Watts (Domestic Violence Liaison Officer) from Castlereagh Local Area Command and sought advice as to whether there will be someone to fulfill this role in the near future.

Acting Superintendent Mureau responded by advising that the Domestic Violence Liaison Officer's position would be filled as soon as possible.

Ms Wheeler expressed the importance of having a police presence at their meetings where possible and if some consistency could be initiated.

Sergeant Cleathero responded and advised that attendance at these community meetings however at times attendance is not possible due to operational needs.

Acting Superintendent Mureau suggested that for those organisations seeking attendance from Police at their meetings, that notification be given within sufficient time and forwarded to the Sergeants at Lightning Ridge along with the Northern Sector Duty Officer. This way arrangements can be put in place to try and ensure attendance at the community meetings.

Ms Wheeler sought advice as to speed limits around the local Preschool at Lightning Ridge and how this could be addressed.

Acting Superintendent Mureau and Acting Inspector Hoath informed Ms Wheeler that these matters can be tabled to the local Traffic Committee Meeting (coordinated by Walgett Shire Council).

Mr Chris Tome – Lightning Ridge Central School

Mr Tome., Principal of Lightning Ridge Central School acknowledged the good work of the Lightning Ridge Police and Senior Constable Ron Halliday of the School Liaison Police.

Mr Tome advised of the good work that has been undertaken in conjunction with the school and in particular the programs that have been introduced.

Mrs Christina Johansson – Yawarra Meami Women's Group Incorporated

Mrs Johansson discussed arrangements that they have put in place for White Ribbon Day which will be held on 25 November 2011 in Lightning Ridge.

Mrs Johansson extended an invitation to the Police to attend if possible.

Reclaim the Night March will also be held on 2 December 2011 in Lightning Ridge.

Domestic Violence Statistics

Acting Inspector Hoath responded to the earlier enquiry regarding Domestic Violence statistics as follows:-

- Average is $\frac{3}{4}$
- The period mid August 2011 to Current 7 Domestic Violence incidences recorded
- The period October 2010 only 8 Domestic Violence incidences recorded

Acting Superintendent Mureau did inform the meeting that overall across the Castlereagh Local Area Command domestic violence rates were being reduced and felt that some of the contributing factors to this could be:-

- Introduction of Liquor Accords in Coonamble, Walgett, Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge
- Proactive Police Work
- Local Services / Agencies – implementing education and awareness programs

Ms Ana Cvejic-Vastag – Yawarra Meami Women's Group Incorporated

Ms Cvejic-Vastag discussed an initiative that Yawarra Meami Women's Group were looking to introduce which was a flyer prepared in a number of different languages advising contact details for assistance if required.

Ms Cvejic-Vastag informed the meeting that migrant women are reluctant to come forward regarding Domestic Violence / Assault matters, however the production of such a handout / translation material may assist in breaking down those barriers.

It was agreed that at the top of this handout that it state:-

IF YOU NEED HELP – CONTACT LIGHTNING RIDGE POLICE ON 6829 9799

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY CALL 000

The meeting noted that Serbian and Croations were the biggest concern due to the cultural barriers that existed.

Acting Superintendent Mureau sought comment from Ms Cvejic-Vastag whether she felt if a Multicultural Community Liaison Officer (Croatian / Serbian speaking) could be sought to attend a meeting / gathering etc in Lightning Ridge would be of assistance to the community.

Ms Cvejic-Vastag responded and advised that she felt that if a meeting was convened in relation to domestic violence the migrant women would not attend, however if it was a more broader meeting arrangement this could be very beneficial.

Ms Cvejic-Vastag also suggested that if such a meeting was facilitated that a visit to the local Police Station could be of assistance to these people.

The target group for such a meeting could be as follows:-

- 40% Serbian and Croatian (500 people)
- 60% 60 years and over

It was agreed that should Ms Cvejic-Vastag arrange for a meeting to be held in Lightning Ridge and would like the assistance of a Multicultural Community Liaison Officer from New South Wales Police Force to attend, then contact should be made with Acting Superintendent Mureau.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.10 pm

A date for the next meeting will be forwarded once confirmed