

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

CENTRAL WEST POLICE DISTRICT – Parkes, Forbes & Lachlan LGA' s
COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: 14 March 2022

VENUE: Forbes Shire Council

TIME: 10.00am

PRESENT:

Chief Inspector Scott Rayner	Officer in Charge (Parkes), Central West Police District
Sheridan Alexander	Executive Officer, Central West Police District (Minutes)
Mr Phillip Donato MP	Member for Orange
Brett Cooke	Chief of Staff, Member for Orange
Councillor Ken Keith	Mayor, Parkes Shire Council
Kent Boyd	General Manager, Parkes Shire Council
Councillor Phyllis Miller	Mayor, Forbes Shire Council
Councillor Chris Roylance	Deputy Mayor, Forbes Shire Council
Steve Loane	General Manager, Forbes Shire Council
Councillor John Medcalf	Mayor, Lachlan Shire Council
Jon Shillito	Director Environment, Tourism & Economic Development, Lachlan Shire Council

APOLOGIES:

Acting Superintendent Brett Smith	Relieving Commander, Central West Police District
Inspector Shane Jessep	Officer in Charge (Forbes), Central West Police District
Acting Inspector Andrew Barnes	Relieving Crime Manager, Central West Police District
Greg Tory	General Manager, Lachlan Shire Council

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 22 November 2021 were reviewed and accepted there were no outstanding actions.

CRIME OVERVIEW – Chief Inspector Scott Rayner

An overview of the Compass Crime results for 4 months (November 2021 – February 2022) for the entire Central West Police District were provided. The crime categories currently over the target were reviewed: *Sexual Assault (Adult), Stolen Vehicles, Fraud and Malicious Damage*.

Crime overview provided as follows:

- *Sexual Assaults (Adult)* – This category is 4 above the current target of 30, 3 incidents occurred in Parkes and 1 incident in Bedgerabong. There are 3 matters currently under investigation surrounding issue of consent.
- *Stolen Motor Vehicle* – There was a crime spike experience in Forbes and Condobolin in relation to stolen vehicles. This trend due to a group of offenders with the majority being young offenders. It was discussed that there were instances of aggravated break and enters where offenders were taking keys of vehicle from the residences. This method was also utilised by offenders when break and enters occurred at business premises. Other valuables such as laptops and wallets were also taken in some instances.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

- *Fraud* – This crime category is over the target by 12, 321 matters reported year to date. There were 29 matters reported in Parkes, 29 at Forbes and 4 at Condobolin. The current trend with frauds is people being scammed and as a result theft of their credit cards. In some instances, items are being purchased online however the items are not received. Some frauds involve offenders from overseas which are difficult for police to investigate. Police will continue to issue warnings to the community about these frauds, particularly the elderly as awareness campaigns are the best way to educate the community.
- *Malicious Damage* – Overall incidents for the District were discussed with majority of matters reported being damage to property, this area is 69 above the year-to-date target. There were 183 incidents reported across the 3 LGA's – 65 at Parkes, 29 at Forbes and 4 at Lachlan. Whilst there was a spike in offences at Condobolin, this has now improved. Condobolin Police were assisted by resources from other sections being Detective and Pro-active Unit with good results. The main offenders have been dealt with and bail checks being conducted to deter offenders from committing further offences.
- *Assault (Non-DV)* – There were 88 reported incidents across the LGA's in the 4 month period being reviewed, 35 incidents occurring at Parkes, 19 at Forbes, and 24 at Condobolin, and Lake Cargelligo. The Covid restrictions had some effect in the reducing the number of incidents, and now that people are attending functions and gatherings the numbers are increasing however are not considered high.
- *Assault (Alcohol Non DV)* – There were 35 reported incidents across the LGA's, 13 at Parkes, 9 at Forbes and 13 at Condobolin and Lake Cargelligo.
- *Powers (Pro-activity):*
 - ✓ *Person Searches* – The overall number of person searches are good, 140 searches were conducted across the LGA's - 72 conducted at Parkes, 47 at Forbes and 21 at Condobolin and Lake Cargelligo. Police need to meet the statutory obligations to conduct a person search, meaning police must hold a reasonable suspicion in line with legislation to carry out a search. The number of searches would be expected to increase when crime spikes are experienced as there would be more police out 'turning over' suspected offenders.
 - ✓ *Move Ons* – There were 75 *Move Ons* conducted across the LGA's – 40 at Parkes, 24 at Forbes, 11 at Lake Cargelligo and Condobolin. *Move Ons* are a direction given by police for persons to move away from a location, they are used as a strategy to address incidents and deter further incidents when persons are gathering at a location.

The monthly crime totals for Parkes were reviewed:

- Crime figures for March are satisfactory across all categories.
- *Malicious Damage* – Incidents are occurring across Parkes with lesser incidents occurring in the sectors.
- *Drug Detections* – Recent drug operation was conducted in Parkes, which has resulted in an increase of figure for possess and supply of drugs.

The monthly crime totals for Peak Hill were reviewed:

- It is noted the overall statistics are low.

The monthly crime totals for the Forbes LGA were reviewed:

- *Break and Enter (Dwelling)* – There was an increase in this category, 17 incidents being reported in January.
- *Stolen Vehicles* – There has been an increase in the category, 16 incidents in the 4 month period which has been addressed – nil incidents reported so far in March.
- In relation to the incidents for *Steal from Dwelling*, Mr Donato noted that the Pro-activity results does not correlate with the crime spike experienced. C/Insp. Rayner indicated this was a valid point and that there may have been a slow response to the emerging crime trend during this

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

time. Mr Donato asked if Regional Enforcement Squads (RES) Units based at Bathurst and Dubbo were still available to assist the District and bolster staff numbers to address such spike in crime. The issue was discussed and Mr Donato indicated that he would make representations for more assistance to be provided by the RES Units to the Districts.

The monthly crime totals for Condobolin were reviewed:

- ✓ In relation to Condobolin, there has been one principle offender charged and bailed in respect to the incidents of *Break and Enter (Dwelling)* and *Break and Enter (Non-Dwelling)*. The other offenders involved are known to police with investigations continuing. Police are working closely with Community Corrections concerning these persons. Mapping highlighting where offences are occurring was reviewed.

The monthly crime totals for the Lake Cargelligo were reviewed:

- ✓ The overall crime stats for Lake Cargelligo for the 4 month review period as good with all categories being either below or on target.

ADVICE FROM COUNCILS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Parkes Shire Council

- ✓ Stars under the stars in Parkes 2 April 2022 – Overture Event to be held at Cooke Park with an expected attendance of 2000-3000 people.
- ✓ Elvis Festival to be held 20-24 April 2021, policing for this event will be combination of local police and officers from Police Transport Command some of which will be on the train.

Forbes Shire Council

- ✓ Mini-Vanfest event to be held 9 April 2022. Main Vanfest event to be held later in the year. Council currently liaising with organiser of the mini event.
- ✓ Frost and Fire event to be held in 2022, date to be confirmed.

Lachlan Shire Council

- ✓ Discussion concerning upcoming community meeting to be held this week.
- ✓ Condo 750 to be held in 2022, date to be confirmed.

Rural Crime Statistics

- ✓ An overview of the rural crime statistics for the 4 months (November 2021 to February 2022) were provided. Currently there is only one Rural Crime Investigator (RCI) working in the area due to two other officers being on sick leave.
- ✓ The overall decline in incidents was noted, this may be due to a lack of reporting – incidents of stock theft, malicious damage and illegal hunting were discussed. Whilst police do get provided information in respect to rural crime issues, there may be no official report provided. There is legislation available to police to be able to confiscate the property of offenders involved in the crime, such as vehicles and equipment.
- ✓ Police are conducting Firearms Audits on all firearms license holders in town and on rural properties.
- ✓ Stock Theft Operations are ongoing across the Region, officers in our rural sectors are well trained to perform checks on stock trucks.
- ✓ Cr. Ken Keith stated that fuel theft from rural properties may be an emerging issue to the increase in the cost of fuel. C/Insp. Rayner indicated that the RCI officer could be involved in providing some education and strategies to landholders to combat this issue.

ACTION: C/Insp. Rayner to arrange for RCI to liaise with Councils concerning strategies for landholders about fuel theft.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

GENERAL BUSINESS

Concerns from Forbes community - Cr Miller advised members of the community have raised their concerns in relation to drugs and other crime issues occurring in Forbes. She asked if police could provide council with regular updates so that information could be relayed to the community as what is being done to address an emerging crime issue when it is occurring.

C/Insp. Rayner indicated the police response to crime does not dramatically change, and whilst some police strategies can be made known, other methodologies need to remain covert.

Notwithstanding this, Officers in Charge of their sectors should be engaging with the respective Councils for community concerns to be addressed and for sharing of information. Recently, this may have been hampered with COVID.

In the same vein, other policing resources could be used to disseminate information such as radio segments done by the CEWPD Crime Prevention Officer and Youth Officer Senior Constable Daniel Greef.

Cr Miller stated she believed there was a 'missing link' between police and the council and questioned how this could be re-established.

The 'Officer in Charge' model in place within the Police Districts was provided and whilst that particular officer may not be available at all times, they could nominate the sector Sergeant to also be a point of contact for the councils. The councils indicated regular contact by police and having them attending council meetings to address any issues was beneficial utilising Parkes Shire Council meetings as how this might work.

ACTION: C/Insp. Rayner to liaise with C/Insp. Jessep and sector Sergeant concerning engaging regular contact with Forbes Council.

Traffic congestion on Great Western Highway – Cr Ken Keith highlighted the current delays when travelling on the highway due to the current flooding in the region and landslides on the highway. He indicated there was a lack of signage indicated the delays that motorists may experience. C/Insp. Rayner indicated that he would liaise with Road and Maritime Services (RMS) or TMC regarding this issue.

Meeting Closed at 11.30am.

NEXT MEETING **Date:** **Monday 18 July 2022 at 10am**
 Location: **Lachlan Shire Council.**