

**Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting  
Lake Illawarra Police District  
11 April 2023  
MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

Supt Craig Ireland, Insp Dan Richardson, Sgt Ben Walsh, SC Casey Mitchell CPO/YLO, Sgt Paul Brodie, A/EXO Gabbie Gallo, Neil Reilly Kiama Council, Meegan Martinez Wollongong City Council, Ben Frost Youth Command, Jayke Graham Youth Command, Renee Acers Shellharbour Council, Fiona Griffiths Housing Trust, Ian Fitzgibbon Dapto Business.

**Apologies:** ACLO Glen Sutherland Sgt Allyson Weston, A/Sgt Jo Cummins CPO, Paul Scully MP, Anna Watson Shellharbour MP, Ash Castro Warrawong Community Centre, Alison Ora Lend Lease, Nick Guggisberg Kiama Council.

**Minutes:** Gabbie Gallo

**Meeting opened:** 10am

**Opening:** Welcome to all attendees and introduction from Insp Daniel Richardson.

S/C Casey Mitchell Acknowledgment to country in absence of ACLO Glen Sutherland.

**Actions Outstanding from Previous Meeting – Nil**

**Welcome:**

Insp Richardson introduced himself and highlighted the Domestic Violence focus on the agenda. Insp Richardson introduced Superintendent Ireland and invited him to open the meeting.

**Commander's Welcome - Superintendent Craig Ireland**

Superintendent Ireland welcomed and thanked everybody in attendance of the meeting.

Domestic violence related crime is currently the primary focus at Lake Illawarra Police District. The same statistics are being reproduced state wide and this offence is overriding all other crime categories.

When a domestic violence offence is detected, action is to be taken where the offending party is required to attend court. This process is important to ensure offenders are held accountable for their actions. There are some good programs in place for both victims and offenders to participate in. However domestic violence continues to be a huge issue that may not be resolved anytime soon.

The other problematic area that is receiving a lot of Police attention involves Youth issues. This includes young person's offending particularly in the Dapto Mall and Shell Cove Marina areas. Dapto in particular has had ongoing issues where youths are causing problems and engaging in anti-social behaviour.

Statistics showed the Shell Cove area was actually ranked fourteenth in our suburb listings for crime statistics over the 4 month period 01 Dec 2022 to 31 Mar 2023. In comparison to many areas, incidents of crime occurring within this area do not appear particularly high. It may be the case that crime is not being reported, or perhaps minor incidents are occurring that do not reach the level that involves criminal offences. Police are currently spending a lot of time at both Dapto Mall and the Shell Cove area providing high visibility policing as a prevention strategy.

The community involvement in the Police Open Day that was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March proved to be a success. Sgt Walsh put a lot of hard work into organising the Open Day. There were three thousand people that attended and many community members indicated they appreciate all the work that Police do.

## **Insp Richardson – Intelligence Review Presentation on Crime October 2022 - March 2023**

The Crime Review for the last six months covers all of the Lake Illawarra Police District and reflects 3,239 compass incidents. The legal action rate is 1,139 or 32.19%. The malicious damage incidents are the most recorded crime, leading down to fraud and DV assault incidents. Every crime review that occurs within a 24hour period shows a high number of DV related crime with 50% or more. The general crime review indicates the significant time periods of crime occurring between 3pm to 6pm and the days of week are reasonably consistent.

The areas where high volume crime is being committed includes Warrawong, Warilla, Unanderra, Dapto, Berkeley, Albion Park, Albion Park Rail and Barrack Heights over the last six months.

The Shellharbour LGA highest crime categories commence with Malicious Damage, fraud, DV, assault and stealing..

Kiama LGA has a higher level of steal from motor vehicle and fraud related crimes which are on the increase due to scams that occur over the phones and internet related crimes.

The Wollongong LGA reflects a higher level of fraud related crime followed by malicious damage for the Wollongong area Berkley, Dapto, Port Kembla and Warrawong.

## **Sgt Brodie – Domestic Violence - Boost Mentoring Program**

The Boost Program is a mentoring program that is run by the Australian Community Support Organisation to engage young people within the Illawarra and is aimed to stop them from breaching Apprehended Violence Orders.

The mentoring program was introduced about four years ago when one of the premiers' priorities was to reduce DV reoffending by 25%. Police enlisted the assistance students from the University of Wollongong who reviewed reoffending DV crime. Juveniles between the ages of 14 to 17 reoffend at four times the rate of adults.

Over a period of 12 months the University students came up with three ideas including an app on phones about understanding AVOS, a story board, a visual presentation and a mentoring program. Once the ideas were reviewed the mentoring program was deemed to be the most suitable and after seeking some funding from the Australian Community's Support Organisation the Boost Mentoring Program was developed.

The young people who are eligible to participate in the program must be aged between 14 to 17yo. They must be a defendant in an Apprehended Violence Order and be required to be considered at risk of breaching an AVO. There are three organisations that can refer into the program which include NSW Police, Youth Justice and the Children's Court and a young person must agree to take part of the program.

Young persons who participate in the program can undertake activities such as surfing, rock climbing, bowling, cultural activities, cinema, biking, cooking, arts, hiking, gym, fishing and sports. These activities are combined with a learning component of the program where a young person will have a mentor that will support and assist them in understanding their AVO. They will also have emotional awareness and work on relationships, problem solving, communication and if not at school they can participate in a work readiness program and First Nations is available for young aboriginal people.

The Boost Program is a trial basis that started about 6 months ago with funding that is available for two years for the Illawarra region. Mentors can work with a young person for 6 months and up to 15 hours per week. They have a capacity for 65 Young Persons and a young person can design their future plan engaging in activities of their own choosing.

There are three levels that a young person must go through Under the Young Offenders Act. This includes cautions, youth conference or charging offenders. Police have received positive feedback

from parents, teachers, case workers and PCYC officers relating to youths undertaking the Boost Mentoring program.

### **Crime Prevention Officer – Sgt Ben Walsh.**

Graffoff is a graffiti removal program that commenced a couple of years ago and involves young offenders sentenced from court placed on youth justice conferencing outcome plans. It is a unique program that enforces participants to comply with the program and there are consequences if offenders fail to attend. Very rarely do young offenders want to voluntarily participate in this program.

Participants don't necessarily have to commit graffiti offences to undertake this program. Any offence can be committed besides graffiti damage except for domestic violence related crime. The program is run once a month in conjunction with local councils. All the properties that are worked on are council assets and no private properties are worked on due to legalities. Police have received positive feedback on their face book page from the community.

S/C Jo Cummins is the LIPD Youth Officer. She administrates the Young Offenders Act and processes youth cautions. S/C Cummins attends the local schools on a weekly basis and gives presentations. The presentations and education programs include the legalities on e-scooters and e-bikes.

S/C Casey Mitchell also assists with the senior safety elder abuse. There are a lot of groups around the Illawarra region that request police attend meetings and provide information on victims of fraud and senior safety.

S/C Jayke Graham and S/C Ben Frost work as Youth engagement officers in the PCYC unit. They regularly run programs including the fit for life program, case manage and mentor young people as well as look after high schools. The fit for life program at PCYC runs every Thursday from 7am to 8am with free breakfast. They are currently in the process of talking to Woolworths to see if they will participate with providing some funding to assist. Thirty young persons are currently enlisted on the program.

The Dapto area is one of the main issues at the moment. Two additional officers are now being tasked to commence and finish duty at Dapto Police Station in order to assist with the problems that are occurring in the area. There are also a number of assaults happening at local schools. Presentations and one on one consultations are being offered to try and work through these offences.

Coffee with a Cop is a program that Lake Illawarra PD is moving forward with. The aim is to get out amongst the community and engage with no agenda to break down a few barriers.

Police Open Day held this year was a success. Three thousand people attended from the community. Ian Fitzgibbon from the rotary assisted with the barbecue on the day and raised \$2,100 and a local charity food for life also raised \$2,534 on the day. Sgt Ben Walsh thanked all of the sections that assisted to make open day a success. Open Day will be run every two years. The next open day will be held in 2025.

### **General Business**

Insp Richardson

Domestic Violence is one of Lake Illawarra's biggest risk crime areas. A Domestic Violence team is situated at Lake Illawarra that deal with domestic related violence crime every day.

The Command has first response car crews which are out on the road and are committed to meeting community needs. A great deal of attention is given to the youth within Lake Illawarra as young people in the area can potentially be our future criminals.

The elderly within our community are often targeted with fraud related crime as criminals see them as easy targets. Lake Illawarra undertakes preventative work to stay ahead of offenders and crime.

Police are aware of the issues occurring within the Shell Cove area. Insp Richardson has met with Council to put some strategies in place in relation crime in the area.

Police have a Vikings funding process where overtime shifts are available for officers. This is to provide extra assistance to certain areas if problems arise and additional officers are required. Vikings is a temporary funding scheme which is being utilised at the Marina for extra rostered staff.

Insp Richardson has spoken to Council about the user pays scheme. The user pays scheme is where another organisation pays for police overtime. Lake Illawarra have been utilising user pays at Stockland's Shellharbour on a Thursday night consistently between certain hours for many years, however the funding provided is not ongoing.

A PACC meeting was recently held with our aboriginal counterparts. Police hold a PACC meeting every quarter. Due to the issues occurring at Dapto, one of our aboriginal support groups is now committing people to this area on a Thursday night to engage the koori youth.

Other matters raised include traffic issues at Albion Park which relate to school drop off and pick up times and flooding within the area. Inspector Wunderlich is the Inspector in charge of the geographical area there and we continually liaise relating to issues. Hwy Patrol has requested to assist in the area however their time is limited as they have their own taskings and work to do.

Police have not had too many issues with licenced premises in the area.

Mental health is another area of concern that has been noted by police. There is a significant amount of mental health related jobs that our front-line police are attending daily. The majority of mental health people have not committed offences, they are mostly patients and not a significant risk to themselves or community. Police are engaging with clinicians from the mental health team to assist in the process.

#### **Commander Closing:**

In addition to Domestic violence and fraud related offences, police are also seeing an increase in 15yo to 16yo old boys being persuaded to send nude pictures of themselves online to who they believe is a female but could potentially be anyone. They are being threatened to pay five hundred dollars if they don't want the photo published and some of the young people are paying that amount rather than risk being socially embarrassed.

Most of the programs that have been discussed today are youth-based programs. This is an intentional strategy in an attempt to get youth engaged and reduce the chances of them going down the wrong path and committing offences.

**Meeting finished:** 11.10am

**Next meeting:** TBA, Lake Illawarra Police District

#### **ACTION ITEMS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING:**

<b>Provide Mayor Reilly a copy of LIPD Review Information / Power points.</b>	<b>E-mailed to Mayor Reilly 11/04/2023</b>

## For Information: Geographical areas aligned to Inspectors

### KIAMA Sector

Inspector Dan Richardson – [rich2dan@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rich2dan@police.nsw.gov.au)

Kiama Sector covers Dunmore (Near Kiama Waste facility) to Gerroa Road, near Bolong Rd, Shoalhaven Heads. This sector also covers from the coastline to Jamberoo Mountain Rd and up to the Illawarra HWY, Robertson. Suburbs include Kiama, Minnamurra, Kiama Downs, Kiama Heights, Gerringong, Gerroa, Jamberoo, Curramore, Knights Hill, Foxground, Werri Beach, Bombo.

### OAK FLATS Sector

Inspector Aaron Wunderlich – [wund1aar@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wund1aar@police.nsw.gov.au)

Oak Flats Sector covers from Shell Cove north to Windang. The sector then included Shellharbour, Shellharbour City Centre, Calderwood, Blackbutt, Barrack Point, Barrack Heights, Warilla, Mount Warrigal, Lake Illawarra, Oak Flats, Albion Park Rail, Albion Park, Tullimbar, Tongarra, Macquarie Pass and Yellow Rock.

### DAPTO Sector

Ch/Inspector Gordon Dunlop – [dun1gor@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dun1gor@police.nsw.gov.au)

Dapto Sector covers from Haywards Bay to Cordeaux Heights and includes Dapto, Dumbarton, Kanahooka, Koonawarra, Haywards Bay, Horsley, Kembla Grange, Wongawilli, Penrose, Marshal Mount, Unanderra and a small section of Kembla Heights.

### PORT KEMBLA Sector

Inspector Darren Brown – [brow1dar@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:brow1dar@police.nsw.gov.au)

Port Kembla Sector spreads from Port Kembla across to Berkeley and south past Primbee. Other suburbs included are Unanderra (industrial area), Cringila, Lake Heights and Warrawong. This sector also surrounds the southern border of the Port Kembla Port and aligns with Wollongong Police District's southern boundary along Five islands Rd from the Spring Hill Rd intersection.

Email addresses for contact with the following sections:

Crime Prevention Unit Supervisor	<a href="mailto:LAKEIPDCPU@police.nsw.gov.au">LAKEIPDCPU@police.nsw.gov.au</a>
Youth Officers	<a href="mailto:LAKEIYOUTH@police.nsw.gov.au">LAKEIYOUTH@police.nsw.gov.au</a>
Crime Prevention Officers	<a href="mailto:LAKEICPO@police.nsw.gov.au">LAKEICPO@police.nsw.gov.au</a>