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

DATE: 18 July 2022

VENUE: Lachlan Shire Council

TIME: 10.00am

PRESENT:

Chief Inspector Scott Rayner	Officer in Charge (Parkes), Central West Police District
Inspector Shane Jessep	Officer in Charge (Forbes), Central West Police District
Acting Inspector Brendan Casey	Relieving Crime Manager, Central West Police District
Sheridan Alexander	Executive Officer, Central West Police District (Minutes)
Councillor Ken Keith	Mayor, Parkes Shire Council
Kent Boyd	General Manager, Parkes Shire Council
Councillor Phyllis Miller	Mayor, Forbes Shire Council (via phone)
Steve Loane	General Manager, Forbes Shire Council (via phone)
Councillor John Medcalf	Mayor, Lachlan Shire Council
Greg Tory	General Manager, Lachlan Shire Council

APOLOGIES:

Acting Superintendent Brett Smith	Relieving Commander, Central West Police District
Mr Phillip Donato MP	Member for Orange

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 14 March 2022 were tabled with no outstanding actions for discussion.

CRIME OVERVIEW – A/Inspector Brendan Casey

An overview of the Compass Crime results for 4 months (March – June 2022) for the whole Central West Police District (PD) were provided, it was noted that good results were achieved overall. The crime categories with increased number of incidents over the reporting period were discussed.

Crime overview provided for the 3 LGA's for the reporting period as follows:

- *Sexual Assaults (Adult)* – There were 3 incidents reported during the four months, 2 at Forbes and 1 at Lachlan. Due to the introduction of the new Consent Laws, it is envisaged there will be an increase in reports. The Legal Action Rate is generally low in this area due to a number of factors. The Investigations Manager within each PD has now been assigned the portfolio of Sexual Assault Violence Co-Ordinator to oversight these investigations and provide a coordinated approach with other agencies.
- *Assault (Non-DV)* – There were 46 incidents, 19 at Parkes, 11 at Forbes and 16 at Lachlan.
- *Assault (Alcohol Non DV)* – There were 16 reported incidents across the LGA's, 7 at Parkes, 6 at Forbes and 3 at Condobolin and Lake Cargelligo. This District is ranked 25 in the state for these incidents out of approx. 78 Police Districts/Police Area Commands.
- *Malicious Damage* – There were 92 incidents reported across the 3 LGA's which is a decrease from the reporting period - 43 at Parkes, 16 at Forbes and 33 at Lachlan. The Legal Action Rate for these incidents is 1 in 5, this PD is ranked 16 in the state.
- *Fraud* – There were 41 matters reported during the 4 month period being reviewed, 20 matters reported in Parkes, 12 at Forbes and 9 for Lachlan. These incidents include Fail to Pay for fuel, and cybercrimes involving credit card and bank account theft. It is expected there will be an increase in Fail to Pay for fuel given the increasing cost.

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In recent years there has been a significant increase in scams and cybercrimes, and in response to this Detectives across the state will receive additional training to assist them in investigating these matters. It was discussed that prevention is key in this area, and police will continue to issue warnings to the community about these frauds, particularly to the elderly as awareness campaigns are the best way to educate the community.

Fraud investigations concerning Covid payments from Service NSW are also included in these crime figures, a number of investigations have been conducted locally with good results.

- *Powers (Pro-activity):*

- ✓ *Person Searches* – The overall number of person searches are good, 189 searches were conducted across the LGA's - 99 conducted at Parkes, 68 at Forbes and 9 at Condobolin and Lake Cargelligo.
- ✓ *Vehicle Searches* – There were 50 vehicle searches recorded which are good results overall - 21 at Parkes, 19 at Forbes, 7 in the Peak Hill Cluster, 2 at Lake Cargelligo and 1 at Condobolin.
- ✓ *Move Ons* – There were 80 *Move Ons* conducted across the LGA's – 40 at Parkes, 33 at Forbes, 5 at Lake Cargelligo and Condobolin. *Move Ons* are a direction given by police for persons to move away from a location and are a good deterrent for reduce and/or prevents incident of crime.

The monthly crime totals for Parkes were reviewed:

- Overall crime figures for Parkes LGA were reviewed.
- *Domestic Violence* – These incidents continue to be a focus.
- *Steal from Motor Vehicle* – The number of incidents is increasing recently which police are addressing. Many of these matters are opportunistic and preventable. Police continue to issue warnings to the community via the various media platforms to secure valuables and not leave items in unlocked vehicles. Parkes Council indicated they are happy to support and promote these messages to the community.

The monthly crime totals for Peak Hill cluster were reviewed:

- It is noted the overall crime stats are low. Peak Hill staffing is currently one officer down due to sick leave. Pro-activity is low and needs to improve. In respect to Trundle, Tottenham and Tullamore, overall crime stats are low. Some areas of pro-activity for these areas is low and is being addressed.

The monthly crime totals for the Forbes LGA were reviewed:

- ✓ Overall crime stats reviewed. Some offenders are on bail and are being monitored by police accordingly via Bail Checks. Forbes Council indicated they are happy overall with the police response to matters. A/Insp. Casey indicated that whilst some of the staff at Forbes were junior, they were working well and taking on some complex investigations with good results.

The monthly crime totals for Condobolin were reviewed:

- ✓ Overall stats for Condobolin are good. An offender who was responsible for a number of *Break and Enter* matters is in custody. Officers at Condobolin are doing a good job and are continuing to investigate these matters. They are gathering the appropriate evidence to obtain Court Orders for DNA samples from juveniles. This will allow police to link these juvenile offenders to a number of crime scene where DNA was captured.

The monthly crime totals for the Lake Cargelligo were reviewed:

- ✓ The overall crime stats for Lake Cargelligo were reviewed. The low results in respect to Pro-activity is being addressed. It was discussed whilst police are out engaging with community and targeting the known offenders, they are not always recording these interactions. In respect to the high number of Drug Detections (27 for the four month period), these stats relate to a cross border operation conducted by Central North PD.

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ADVICE FROM COUNCILS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

List of upcoming events for each LGA were reviewed, events to include the Forbes and Lake Cargelligo Shows, Trundle Start Up Day and Condo 750.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Parkes Shire Council

- ✓ **Vehicles doing burnouts** - Mayor Keith raised the issue of vehicles doing burn outs and causing damage to roads and drainage on the roadside. C/Insp. Rayner did confirm this was an issue previously which had been alleviated by taskings performed by Highway Patrol (HWP) officers and strategies to engage the offenders. Police can also issue Infringement Notices which would be a deterrent for further incidences. C/Insp. Rayner to arrange to raise this issue HWP.
ACTION: C/Insp. Rayner to liaise with HWP Sergeant re tasking for burns out in Parkes.
- ✓ **Recent Accident at Rail Crossing** – Kent Boyd raised the issues of the recent crossing accident and the apparent confusion regarding the location of the accident and level crossing. Police confirmed that the issue was mainly about access alongside the tracks for emergency services which was hampered due recent rain and ground being excessively wet.
- ✓ **Ag Shows** – Mayor Keith questioned whether an increase in the malicious damage or stealing was previously experienced when the local Shows are held in town and police indicated there was no marked change in crime during this time.

Forbes Shire Council

- ✓ **Concerns re Foster Care** - Mayor Miller raised her concerns in respect to police checks for persons performing Foster Care and questioned what input police have in this process. She also raised her concern in respect to a specific matter that she had knowledge of and subsequent concerns for a child's welfare and safety. Police confirmed that any checks are solely the responsibility of Department of Community Services and that whilst police would provide the request information on an individual, they do not have any other input as such. A/Insp. Casey did advise that should there be information concerning a child abuse matter then this should be reported to police to be investigated. Further discussion was held, and it was agreed that C/Insp. Jessep would contact Mayor Miller to discuss her concerns outside this forum.

Lachlan Shire Council

- ✓ **Alcohol Free Zones** – Greg Tory raised the issue of Alcohol Free Zones being in conflict with premises that have outside dining areas. Police confirmed that these premises would have extended licensing areas that covering their outside dining areas. Licenses would incorporate these areas for the consumption of alcohol when food is being served.
- ✓ **Tottenham Vacancy** – C/Insp. Rayner confirmed Tottenham is classified as a Remote location, not Special Remote. This position is vacant pending the appointment of a new officer with the current job ad closing today. Should there be no interest in this position the next job ad will be listed as 'Hard to Fill' which means the tenure criteria can be waived interested applicants. The Peak Hill cluster is covering the Tottenham sector until the position can be filled.
In respect to overall vacancies across the state, there are difficulties being experienced in filling positions even in coastal locations which are normally desirable and easily filled. Current factors impacting recruitment are the recent disengagement scheme and lack of student entering the Police Academy.
Discussion held in respect to the criteria for Special Remote locations and whether representations by councils would assist in getting our locations reclassified. Police advised there is a statewide review being conducted in respect to the classification of Remote and Special Remote areas.

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Staffing Overview

- ✓ **Parkes** - C/Insp. Rayner provided an overview of staffing at Parkes, currently three vacancies with one Probationary Constables to be assigned into one of these positions. The remaining two positions will be held for recruitment. There are two Probationary Constable commencing at Parkes shortly, however, it does take some time to get these officers adequately training and to progress through the learning modules they need to complete prior to being confirmed. In relation to Peak Hill, as discussed previously there is one officer on long term sick leave, and this position can't be filled at this time.
- ✓ **Condobolin, Lake Cargelligo and Forbes** – Insp. Jessep indicated there were no vacant positions at Lake Cargelligo and Condobolin, and an overview of staffing at Forbes was provided.

Meeting Closed at 11.30am.

NEXT MEETING **Date:** **Monday 14 November 2022 at 10am**
Location: **Parkes Shire Council.**

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