This reporting year we continued our focus on perception and fear of crime, improved efforts to detect and deter rock throwing and focused on alcohol related crime. Our targeted traffic enforcement saw our road toll fall to its lowest since 1945; we increased resources for drug testing New South Wales drivers; we introduced smarter breath analysis instruments; and we targeted illegal street racing and ‘hoon’ driving. We communicated core messages to address fear and perception of crime; we maintained safety from acts of terrorism; we successfully met our greatest security challenge to date, the 2007 APEC meetings; we started planning for World Youth Day; and we successfully managed other major events.

Public Safety and the State Plan (R3)

This year public safety, and reduced fear and perception of crime has been driven by the State Plan Priority R3: Reduced rates of antisocial behaviour.

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE:

TARGETS:

- Reduce problems with louts, noisy neighbours, public drunkenness and hoons

CORE STRATEGIES EMPLOYED:

- Reduced perception and fear of crime
- Reduced levels of antisocial behaviour
- Targeted traffic enforcement
- Sharing of core messages to address fear and perception
- Safety from acts of terrorism in New South Wales
- Safety during major events – APEC and World Youth Day

PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS:

The community’s perception of public order problems was mixed during 2007-08.

The percentage of people considering an issue to be a problem in the local neighbourhood changed:

- dangerous or noisy driving – down 1.4 percentage points
- louts or youth gangs – down 0.9 percentage points
- vandalism, graffiti and other property damage – down 0.7 percentage points
- problems with neighbours or domestic problems – up 0.9 percentage points
- drunkenness – virtually unchanged, up 0.2 percentage points.

Source: From State Plan Annual Report, 12 month survey year ending April.
State Plan strategies of reduced perception and fear of crime, reduced levels of antisocial behaviour, targeted traffic enforcement, and sharing of core messages to address fear and perception of crime translated into operational results. These strategies in action can be demonstrated through practical examples as illustrated in the following chapter.

**Reduced perception and fear of crime**

The NSW Police Force developed strategies to better connect with local communities and promote positive crime results and outcomes.

**We’re improving efforts to detect and deter rock throwing**

We’re working with public transport agencies and private companies, drivers, unions, schools and councils to track down offenders who throw rocks at trains, buses, trucks and cars. This work includes improving reporting procedures and intelligence exchange between police and transport stakeholders, as well as upgrading enforcement and community awareness campaigns.

**Polair helps with public safety**

Throughout the reporting year Polair crews used intelligence based policing to target local area command high crime areas and through their high visible presence, minimised crime and the fear of crime. Crews from the Aviation Support Branch (ASB) supported major events including the Bathurst car races, APEC 2007, New Year’s Eve and Australia Day Celebrations on Sydney Harbour and at Bondi and Cronulla.

Polair was deployed outside Sydney to support searches for missing people and transporting emergency service personnel into inaccessible areas, rescuing close to 100 people and recovering 23 bodies. The ASB was also involved in flood recovery operations, investigations into fatal aviation accidents and investigations into aviation related crime including the theft of a helicopter from Bankstown Airport.

A scheduled major overhaul of Polair 2 provided the aircraft with the capacity to allow flight crew to use night vision goggles, significantly enhancing the safety of operations at night.

**Reduced levels of antisocial behaviour**

With support from the Department of Premier & Cabinet, we targeted antisocial behaviour through the expansion of Crime Prevention Partnerships at selected locations. We complemented this with Vikings operations focused on improved public safety, antisocial behaviour and traffic enforcement.

**Crime and antisocial behaviour are often linked to alcohol misuse**

Over the past 10 years there has been an increasing trend in alcohol related crime statewide. This directly links to the State Plan, both R1: reduced crime and violence and R3: reduced antisocial behaviour.

Alcohol related crime is a key focus of the NSW Police Force executive team. It is acknowledged that this issue requires broad public policy reform beyond the scope of any single agency. A whole of community and Government approach is crucial to work together to reduce alcohol misuse and associated crime.

However, given that alcohol related assault was the only growing statistic in the ‘assault’ crime category, the NSW Police Force Executive committed to addressing the growing rate of alcohol related crime with a range of improvements:

- Enhanced licensing enforcement. With 14,227 active licensed premises in New South Wales, enhanced enforcement was targeted at high risk premises.
- New South Wales Police Force actively participated in 150 Liquor Accords working in partnership locally to curb antisocial behaviour.
Alcohol related crime has increased

**Context**
Alcohol misuse contributes to crime and social disorder, and is a particular focus under State Plan priority R3 – reducing antisocial behaviour. Police licensing enforcement targets increased responsible service practices by licensed establishments and improved behaviour of patrons.

**Desired result**
Reduced alcohol related assaults, crime and antisocial incidents, particularly in or near licensed premises.

**Findings**
In 2007-08: police ‘walk through’ inspections of licensed premises increased by 14% and assault incidents occurring in licensed premises increased by 2%. Total alcohol related assaults increased by 1%

**Future actions under the State Plan for 2008-09**
We will:
- enhance licensing enforcement
- full implementation and staffing of the Alcohol & Licensing Enforcement Command
- improve regulation and assessment
- minimise alcohol related harm
- patrol identified high risk situations to encourage patrons to accept personal responsibility and minimise self harm
- roll out new crime prevention partnerships.

**Road safety has improved**

**Context**
The police response to road safety is governed by our strategies under State Plan priority R3 – Reducing antisocial behaviour, particularly hoon and noisy drivers. This is in conjunction with our partner agency responsibilities under S7 – Safer roads. Targeted police presence on the roads is intended to improve road user behaviour and lead to fewer traffic crashes and resulting trauma.

**Desired result:**
- a reduction in the number of people who perceive problems with noisy and hoon drivers in New South Wales – to be at or below the national average of 73% - 74%
- a reduction in road trauma to less than 0.74 per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled
- more random breath tests are expected to increase the perceived likelihood of being detected, resulting in fewer charges for prescribed concentration of alcohol (PCA)
- a reduction in the number of street racing incidents.

**Findings**
Fatal collisions fell from 449 in 2006 to 404 in 2007. There were 68 more injury collisions during 2007 (20,300) compared to 2006 (20,232). There were 123,409 fewer random breath tests conducted in 2007 – 3.5 million in 2007 and 3.6 million in 2006 (-3.4%). However charges for prescribed concentration of alcohol (PCAs) increased by 6.2% (29,106 in 2007 compared to 27,410 in 2006).

**Future actions under the State Plan for 2008-09**
We will:
- conduct high visibility police operations at identified car hoon/ street racing hot spots
- continue joint operations with partner agencies (e.g. RTA, Environment Protection Authority)
- encourage responsible driving through enhanced traffic enforcement and targeting drag/street racing.

**Note**
Factors such as road or weather conditions may contribute to road trauma. Figures provided in this section are provisional and are subject to change. Approved traffic reporting is standard based on calendar year data.
• Eight Local Area Commands participated in six Crime Prevention Partnerships (CPPs). CPPs are a collaborative partnership between government agencies within an area working together to drive down crime, especially in the assault category. Nine additional CPPs will commence during 2008-09.

• Creation of the Alcohol & Licensing Enforcement Command (ALEC) to focus on alcohol related crime. ALEC will also formalise an ongoing operational relationship with the Office of Liquor Gaming & Racing (OLGR).

• The investment of more than $2.3 million into the alcohol related crime information exchange database will enable NSW Police Force, OLGR and the Office of State Revenue to consolidate, exchange and share accurate data relating to alcohol related crime.

An alcohol project was established in conjunction with the State Plan to look at new initiatives for the management of alcohol related crime that would practically address this growing community concern. This multi-agency alcohol project is ongoing as at June 2008. We also have projects underway called Supply means supply and Your choice. Your choice is a diversionary program that focuses on changing the behaviour of under age persons possessing or consuming alcohol in public spaces by NSW Police. Supply means supply is a multi-faceted education, advertising and enforcement campaign for parents, carers and the general community. It targets illegal secondary supply to minors. Both of these programs will also focus on empowering parents and care givers with knowledge of the law.

During the 2007 election year the NSW Government committed to appointing an additional 30 officers to tackle alcohol related crime. This election commitment was delivered ahead of time to increase the capacity of the NSW Police Force to respond to alcohol related crime and ensure specialist officers and proactive management strategies were in place. The full ALEC Unit will be implemented from 1 July 2008.

Around the same time and in support of the already developing NSW Police Force focus on alcohol related crime, the Audit Office of New South Wales released its performance report into Working with hotels and clubs to reduce alcohol related crime. The focus of the audit was on the role of NSW Police Force and NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing on the enforcement of the responsible service of alcohol. The Audit Office found both agencies work with pubs and clubs to promote and enforce the responsible service of alcohol laws. However, they did identify opportunities for improvement in how the two agencies work together collaboratively to improve training, licensing and enforcement.

### Alcohol licensing in Albury has gone back to basics

In line with their State Plan commitment to reducing antisocial behaviour, Albury police encouraged a back to basics approach to improve partnerships with licensed premises in the local community. Known as Operation Shackell, police from different sections within the command united to form ‘beat crews’ on Friday and Saturday nights. Together they targeted alcohol related crime in the Albury central business district and enforced a 1.30am lockout to licensed premises. These regular foot patrols and licensed premises inspections provide a highly visible police presence. The feedback from both the community and licensed premises has been exceptional. In addition, licensed premises have initiated a bus service for patrons at a nominal cost. Operation Vikings funding has allowed more police to participate in this simple but effective measure to address alcohol related crime in the Albury CBD.

### Targeted traffic enforcement

#### Our road toll is the lowest since 1945

During the 2007 calendar year, 449 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes in New South Wales, 47 fewer than the previous year’s record low of 496 (revised from 498) and the lowest figure since 1945. The number of exceed speed offences detected on New South Wales roads was also down, from 207,732 in 2007 compared with 226,222 in 2006. The year 2007 saw 25,929 people injured in motor vehicle crashes compared to 25,710 in 2006; while 26,038 people were detected for drink driving offences in 2007 compared to 25,888 the previous year.

#### We increased resources committed to drug testing New South Wales drivers

In February 2008, we deployed an additional two drug testing trucks, giving us three purpose built drug testing vehicles operating in New South Wales. As at 30 June 2008, we had tested 14,708 drivers for drugs with 352 (or one in every 42) returning a positive reading.

The NSW Police Force drug testing operations have become a model for other law enforcement agencies, with interstate police inspecting our procedures and adopting similar methods for their drug testing programs.

#### New technology supports traffic enforcement

Our traffic enforcement has been enhanced by new technology. The NSW Police Force is installing Lion Intoxilyzer 800 breath analyser instruments into many police stations and random breath testing (RBT) trucks across the state. These ‘smart technology’ instruments, designed by police for police, are part of our ongoing commitment to providing operational officers with better equipment and more efficient processes. Evidential breath
analysis will allow the capture of more intelligence for planning more effective RBT operations and education campaigns.

We’re putting 425 new radar speed measuring devices into our highway patrol cars and integrating them with technology such as in-car video recorders.

Additional hand held LiDAR (light detection and ranging) units are also being rolled out to supplement current equipment.

We have 26 automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) instruments in operation with 718 staff trained to use them. This technology was introduced in December 2005 and since then 17,486 vehicles have been detected and stopped for possible registration and stolen vehicle offences.

**Operation Taipan targets illegal street racing and ‘hoon’ driving**

Under the control of the Traffic Services Branch, Operation Taipan police are detecting, disrupting and prosecuting illegal street racers and car hoons. Since its inception in November 2007, Operation Taipan police have arrested 361 people on 798 charges, conducted more than 17,000 breath tests, issued more than 9,500 infringement notices and confiscated more than 50 vehicles.

**Sharing of core messages to address fear and perception of crime**

The Police Media Unit continued to provide a high level media liaison service to police and media organisations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This reporting year we issued 3,178 media releases and provided operational support to senior officers for 221 media conferences. Media liaison officers played a crucial role in informing the community about major events and emergencies around the state, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), New Year’s Eve and Australia Day celebrations, the Bathurst races and activities surrounding the Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras. This year we provided information for broadcast to the public through the more than 1,000 journalists and newsrooms subscribing to the service.

**We’re maintaining the flow of operational information to the media**

All police radio communications in the Newcastle/Sydney/Wollongong metropolitan area is now encrypted, stopping criminals and others from listening in on police operations. Our Police Media Unit is maintaining the flow of operational information to the media through the Police External Agencies Transfer System (PEATS). This system provides a direct feed to registered members of the media and their organisations, ensuring they can continue informing the public about major events and incidents in their area.

**We’re working with the media to promote our messages and services**

The Public Affairs Branch had significant success promoting core police messages and services to the community through involvement with commercial television shows. These programs included the Nine Network’s Missing Persons Unit, which has consistently won its prime time slot, and the Channel Seven programs The Force and Crash Investigation Unit, due to air in the second half of 2008.

**We provide news footage of police operations without jeopardising legal proceedings**

The Public Affairs Branch records footage of major police activities, including drug busts, murder arrests and operations targeting criminal and antisocial behaviour, for distribution to media outlets throughout the state. This financial year the Public Affairs Branch filmed or edited images to accompany more than 189 media releases, graphically illustrating police at work, driving down crime and the fear of crime. The branch produced 53 DVDs, including coverage of Operation Baraba at the Bathurst Races and Operation Contego (APEC), to support internal training. We also produced our first community service...
announcement on crime prevention in Dubbo, for screening on regional television.

The Public Affairs Branch worked with more than 50 production companies, independent film makers and agencies looking to feature the NSW Police Force logo or our staff in their shows, or who were seeking advice on policing or asking to borrow equipment. These productions included the Crash Investigation Unit, Hunted: Solving Australia’s Crimes, Totally Wild, Saturday Disney, Home & Away, and Crime Investigation Australia.

Safety from acts of terrorism in New South Wales

We are responsible for prevention and response to all acts of terrorism in New South Wales

The Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command (CT&ST) consists of a strong and unified team of specialists and support staff. Four groups within the command provide investigation, management and support across issues specific to counter terrorism, state security and national and international visitor dignitary protection.

Over the past 12 months each of these units has made a significant contribution to the state of New South Wales in their specialist areas, including APEC activities in September 2007, which saw the entire command commit to the success of Operation Contego (the operational name for the APEC Police Security Command).

The CT&ST Command has developed strong links and relationships with other government agencies such as the Department of Premier & Cabinet, the State Emergency Management Committee and the NSW Department of Health. We also have firm working relationships with other emergency services such as the Ambulance Service of NSW and NSW Fire Brigades, the Commonwealth Office of Transport Security, as well as owners and operators of public transport and infrastructure.

The NSW Police Force is a key contributor to the international counter terrorism efforts. We also continue to work with the Australian Federal Police and the NSW Crime Commission to amalgamate counter terrorism investigative efforts in New South Wales. With an officer now deployed to Los Angeles working with the United States intelligence bodies, the command continues to monitor events on a local, national and international level.

Safety during major events such as APEC and other major events

We successfully met our greatest security challenge to date

APEC Australia 2007 was the most significant dignitary protection and security event in Australia’s history. More than 6,000 heads of state and delegates attended over 100 days of APEC related meetings around Australia, which culminated in the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting (Leaders’ Week) in Sydney from 2-9 September 2007. On 10 September 2007 the Premier and Prime Minister joined together in publicly praising the NSW Police Force on the delivery of this security operation.

While providing a safe and secure environment for the APEC meetings in Sydney was our primary responsibility, our goals included minimal disruption to city life and ensuring normal policing services continued undisrupted to the state.

We protected the 2007 APEC Leaders’ Week

APEC Economic Leaders’ Week involved meetings between the leaders of 21 member economies: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People’s Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Republic of the Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; and Vietnam.

The formal meetings that week principally took place in three venues; the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, the Sydney Opera House and NSW Government House. The week involved more than 35 private/state aircraft movements, the attendance of 42 foreign and trade ministers, 350 business leaders, more than 5,000 support personnel, and 1,500 media officials working from the International Media Centre (IMC).

We had been planning for APEC for more than two years

The APEC Planning Group was formed in March 2005 and the APEC 2007 NSW Police Security Command commenced operations on 15 August 2005. In line with previous large scale security operations, separate project teams were formed to address communications, intelligence, tactical operations, risk management, precincts, traffic, human resources, Special Services Group coordination, civil order, business and administration, media relations, logistics, investigations, protection operations unit, legal, geospatial information and multimedia services. With a great deal of government coordination, we also had a strong communication strategy with the public.

A liaison officer at assistant commissioner rank worked in the Office of the Prime Minister as an information conduit between the Prime Minister and his staff and the police operational commander. Precinct commanders at the rank of superintendent were appointed for Bennelong, Sydney CBD, Darling Harbour and Sydney Airport. Venue supervisors at the rank of inspector were appointed for the 26 venues.

Intelligence was a standout success with a strong focus on integration of NSW Police Force intelligence with other
state, federal and civilian intelligence agencies, and the extensive use of field intelligence officers. We established a Business Liaison Centre to communicate appropriate intelligence to private sector corporations and the Sydney business community: a model that will be used for all major events.

We adapted the State Transit bus tracking systems to monitor the movements of multiple protected motorcades. We used a number of static and mobile systems to secure those venues adjoining Sydney Harbour. We used jet skis to counteract water borne protest action and to provide high speed response to maritime incidents.

We have been planning for World Youth Day

Once past APEC, Major Events & Incidents Group focused on the planning for World Youth Day in July 2008. The NSW Police Force was able to use the leadership, knowledge, strategies and equipment built during APEC in World Youth Day preparations.

Bathurst races and a successful operation

Western Region police in partnership with the Major Events & Incidents Group targeted crowd control and public order at V8 Supercars as part of Operation Baraba. This successful operation was the first in a five year plan to improve public safety at the annual Supercar event.

The Major Events & Incidents Group began planning for the 2007 Bathurst V8 Supercar event several months earlier. The policing response to the event had been measured with consideration given to past public order, violence and alcohol related criminal behaviour. Operation Baraba was a joint policing strategy with a number of commands working together to provide a safe, secure and enjoyable event. This was achieved through multiple strategies, including RTA enhanced traffic operations, Vikings high visibility deployments and proactive interventions at the Mt Panorama circuit.

The operational phase was conducted from 28 September through to 9 October 2007 and included road closures and traffic management; the establishment of checkpoints and vehicle search areas; the introduction of wristband access and identification; high visibility policing within the township and the Mt Panorama circuit; licensing enforcement and public order considerations and strategies.

The policing response was continually reviewed and amended in line with updated threat and risk assessments. The original staffing estimates were adjusted to cover the escalation of identified risks, with the increase in the total number of shifts a result of responding to those.

The operation achieved excellent results with one of its major achievements being a significant reduction in injuries and damage to property. Eighty eight people were arrested for criminal offences, with 120 charges laid for a range of offences including possession of prohibited drugs, supply of prohibited drugs, possession of fireworks, assault and traffic offences.

In addition 47 people were detected in possession of cannabis and were issued caution notices. Overall 70 people were banned from the event. Off track activity was also policed with 22 licensing breaches detected, more than 14,000 random breath tests conducted and over 900 traffic infringement notices issued.

As a direct result of Operation Baraba, camp grounds and infrastructure was safer for the first time in many years. This clearly defined the operation as one where a culture of excessive alcohol consumption and damage to property was to be changed in favour of a safe, family orientated event.

The results of these strategies were evident in the increased community satisfaction which was achieved due to the partnership of strategies between the event organisers and the NSW Police Force.

We’ve implemented the Event Management Model for CBD sporting venues

The Central Metropolitan Region is focused on managing the demands that sporting venues create, such as the Sydney Football Stadium and the Sydney Cricket Ground. The Event Management Model provides the region with a succession plan of suitable staff to command at these venues. The model develops less experienced commanders in the planning and coordination of major events through training and shadowing of more experienced commanders. The model has a number of benefits including providing further development opportunities to commanders while reducing the demands placed on the LACs that host the venues.

Outlook for 2008-09

In the coming year, we will:

- Increase community engagement with a focus on vulnerable groups
- Enable local solutions to local problems
- Improve coordination of visible authority
- Target antisocial behaviour
- Target traffic enforcement
- Encourage responsible driving and responsible behaviour on public transport
- Provide safety from acts of terrorism in New South Wales
- Provide safety during major events such as World Youth Day and other major events
Section Two

PUBLIC SAFETY