

**Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting  
Lake Illawarra Police District  
13 December 2023  
MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

Supt Craig Ireland, Insp James Dark , Sgt Ben Walsh, Glen Sutherland ACLO, EXO Robyn Harris, Mayor Chris Homer Shellharbour Council, Renee Acers Shellharbour Council, Matt Sutherland Shellharbour Council, Ian Fitzgibbon Dapto Business Chamber, Ron Cooper Neighbourhood Forum WCC, Gary McKay Kiama RSL, Gareth Ward MP Kiama, Sandra Mitrevski obo Paul Scully MP Wollongong, Robert Cummins obo Anna Watson MP Shellharbour

**Apologies:** Paul Scully MP, Paul Grebert APCC, Stephen Jones MP, Mark O'Callaghan SCC, Effie Warren Housing Trust Coniston.

**Minutes:** Robyn Harris EXO

**Meeting opened:** 1 pm

**Opening:** Welcome to all attendees and introduction from Insp James Dark

ACLO Glen Sutherland Acknowledgment to country.

**Actions Outstanding from Previous Meeting – Nil**

**Welcome:**

Insp Dark introduced himself and introduced Superintendent Ireland and invited him to open the meeting.

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

Superintendent Ireland welcomed and thanked everybody for their attendance at the meeting and apologised for the change in the meeting date due to conflicting events.

A review of the criminal statistics indicate a higher level across the District in property crime, steal from motor vehicles and stolen vehicles. This is reflective across the region and NSW and follows on the increase in the cost of living, higher fuel prices, increase in rental costs and higher interest rates on mortgages.

Our legal action rate is good, with a high detection of offenders.

Due to the good work of officers there has been a noticeable drop in the reporting of groups of youth behaviour in the community.

**Sgt Ben Walsh Crime Prevention Unit Community Safety Team – Intelligence Review Presentation on Crime June 2023 -December 2023**

The statistics cover the Local Government Areas for Kiama, Shellharbour and Wollongong.

Sgt Walsh discussed the current levels and categories of crime for the areas, There has been an increase in Fraud on line crime, Malicious Damage, Steal from Motor Vehicles and Theft of Motor Vehicles.

Groups of 6-8 youths are moving around the areas accessing unlocked vehicles and removing any valuables. Unfortunately, the community are not following the LOCK it or LOSE campaign and wallets, laptops and power tools are being left in unlocked vehicles.

Local youth can be transient, stealing motor vehicles to transport the items stolen from motor vehicles. CCTV is valuable as it is an important evidence tool and money well spent by Councils, Businesses and residences.

High end motor vehicles are being stolen by the offender breaking into a residence, locating the keys to the vehicle in the house and accessing the car.

Members of the community are encouraged to report crime, there are several online avenues to do this without attending or contacting the Police Station. The reporting allows Officers to be tasked based on the intelligence reporting.

Shoplifting Operations are regularly held at Stockland in conjunction with the Centre Loss Prevention Officer and officers from the Anti-Theft unit. This operation increases the stats due to the number of detected thefts.

Shell Cove Marina will see an increase in visitors over the summer months. There will be an increase in patrols monitoring youth anti-social behaviour.

Unregistered trail bikes are an ongoing issue in the District. The community are encouraged to report activity but preferably with a description / photo and location of the bike. Police are not allowed to pursue the bikes and quality information can assist with detecting the offenders.

Gareth Ward MP Kiama raised the coverage of the Kiama area. The area is covered 24/7 and Station is open when rostering permits.

### **Presentation of Crime Prevention Office Activities.**

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.

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.

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.

GUNGI Origin Cup was well received with Supt Ireland arriving via Pol Air to present the Cup.

FACEBOOK – activities that appear on community Facebook pages are not a report to Police. The report needs to be made via the online portal or direct contact with the station. Lake Illawarra PD has a substantial number of followers and posts community events as well as missing persons on Social Media.

### **General Business**

Shellharbour Mayor Chris Homer – On behalf of the Country Mayors Association – Request to NSW Parliament to report on crime in regional areas, managing funding for rural policing numbers, First Response Agreement (FRA) for regional police stations. Review of FRA for those police stations with an FRA in place.

Insp Dark – Discussed District Inspectors areas of responsibility. No issues raised from the floor.

Supt Ireland – explained the application of the first response agreement at Lake Illawarra PD and the fact that all police stations within the LIPD footprint are staffed by personnel attached to Lake Illawarra PD as part of the existing FRA.

Chris Homer – mentioned that the Country Mayors Association submission appears to relate to more remote locations with non-24 hour police stations.

**Commander Closing:**

Supt Ireland provided an overview and summary of crime statistics for Lake Illawarra Police District.

**Meeting finished:** 2.15 pm

**Next meeting:** 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Lake Illawarra Police Station

**ACTION ITEMS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING:**

**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**

**A/Insp Anthony Peterson** – [pete1ant@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pete1ant@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>