



Crime Prevention Plan (July 2009 to June 2012)

Cessnock City Council



Planning for Our People Our Place Our Future



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SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cessnock City is located in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales, (NSW) about 120 kilometres north of Sydney and 40 kilometres west of Newcastle. The Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) encompasses a total land area of 1,950 square kilometres, of which a large proportion is State Forest and National Park. The estimated resident population for the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) is 48,985 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Estimated Resident Population, 2008).

Analysis of the crime data for the Cessnock LGA indicates that Malicious Property Damage is the most prevalent offence and has both a financial and social impact on the community. Malicious Property Damage includes smashing of shop windows, damage to recreational/sporting facilities, public toilets, public phone boxes, letter boxes, motor vehicles, fencing and graffiti.

The literature suggests that Malicious Property Damage offences can be effectively addressed using a situational crime prevention approach. Situational crime prevention has a focus on preventing the opportunity for crime by addressing factors that create a crime hotspot within a given location (NSW Attorney General's Department, Situational Crime Prevention Fact Sheets). Both the crime data and the consultation process identified that the Central Business District (CBD) areas of Cessnock and Kurri Kurri are the crime hotspots for the LGA in respect to Malicious Property Damage.

From the data collection process the Greta and Branxton CBD areas were not identified as crime hotspots for Malicious Property Damage. The areas of Pokolbin, Lovedale and Wollombi, although not necessarily having a CBD area like the more populated suburbs such as Cessnock and Kurri Kurri, still have numerous business and commercial sites dispersed within and many are associated with tourism, farming and viticulture. For these rural communities, Malicious Property Damage was not identified as a prevalent crime issue.

Given the results of the available crime data and the consultation process, the Cessnock LGA Crime Prevention Plan has a focus on minimising Malicious Property Damage within the CBD areas of Cessnock and Kurri Kurri. However, it is acknowledged that all households and businesses within the Cessnock LGA would benefit from a Malicious Property Damage crime prevention strategy. Hence, the Crime Prevention Plan also includes strategies which aim to reduce Malicious Property Damage offences for all households and businesses. Additionally, it aims to work with youth by delivering a range of crime prevention programs. In essence, the Cessnock Crime Prevention Plan endeavours to achieve a reduction of Malicious Property Damage through adoption of the following strategies:

Prevention of Alcohol Related Malicious Property Damage

- Reduce pedestrian traffic travelling from licensed premises to residential areas within the Central Cessnock area particularly on Friday and Saturday nights.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Principles

- The Cessnock City Council City Planning Department be provided with regular educational opportunities on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.

- Cessnock City Council to work in partnership with the NSW Police Force in undertaking a complete Community Safety Audit for the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD Areas.

Closed Circuit Television

- Undertake a study regarding the benefits, limitations and costs of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) within the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Business Districts.

Community Education and Safety

- A tradeshow be offered to showcase safety products specific to the business sector and to be held within the Cessnock LGA.
- Deliver a LGA wide promotional educational program targeted to the householder and rural business owner which aims to protect property, including vehicles and stock from Malicious Property Damage.
- Deliver a LGA wide media and community promotional campaign highlighting the need to report Malicious Property Damage crime.

Working with Youth

- Deliver targeted youth crime prevention strategies which aim to promote increased participation within the community and lessen boredom.

BACKGROUND

CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY

The Cessnock Crime Prevention Plan aims to reduce the incidence of Malicious Property Damage within the Cessnock LGA. In order to gain an understanding of the incidence of Malicious Property Damage within the Cessnock LGA, crime statistics from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) and the NSW Police Force were analysed. Data from these sources clearly suggest Malicious Property Damage is a key crime issue for the community. Additionally, the Cessnock Social and Community Plan 2004-09 and the NSW State Plan 2006 were reviewed and considered from a crime prevention perspective, as both offer suggestions in respect to crime prevention initiatives. This process suggested that a crime prevention plan that focussed on situational crime prevention techniques, combined with local crime knowledge, could produce an effective outcome.

FINDINGS FROM THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

As part of the crime prevention planning process, consultations were held with key community stakeholders. They are as follows:

Business Chambers of the Cessnock LGA

Cessnock Wine Country Chamber of Commerce	Louise Jamieson, Alison Davey
Kurri Kurri Business Chamber of Commerce	Toby Thomas, Rod Doherty
Branxton/Greta Chamber of Commerce	Neil Thomas, Andrew Thomas
Lovedale Chamber of Commerce	Robyn Gill
Wollombi Valley Chamber of Commerce	Peter Hamshere

NSW Police Force

Central Hunter Local Area Command – Intelligence Supervisor	Sergeant Mick McDonnell
Central Hunter Local Area Command – Crime Prevention Officer	Senior Constable Brian Coffey
Central Hunter Local Area Command – Intelligence Analyst	Mandie Thomas
Central Hunter Local Area Command - Licensing Supervisor	Sergeant Barry Meyers
Hunter Valley Local Area Command – Crime Co-ordinator	Sergeant Peter Robertson
Hunter Valley Local Area Command – Crime Prevention Officer	Senior Constable Sheree Gray

Key Stakeholder Organisations and Community Groups

Juvenile Justice	Maitland Office
Cessnock Liquor Accord	Michael Starkey
Cessnock Anti Violence Network	Collaborative Group
Community Development Officer - Singleton Council	Gail Easton
Cessnock PCYC	Senior Constable Matthew Ellis, Peter Rosemond, Kathy Smith
Kurri Kurri Towns with Hearts Inc	Wendy Franklin
Kurri Kurri Community Centre	A collaboration of service providers who are auspiced by Kurri Kurri Community Centre.

Cessnock City Council Staff

Recreation Services - Manager	Nicole Benson
Director of City Planning	Darryl Fitzgerald
Planning Services Coordinator	Kerry Porter
Major Projects Coordinator	Julie Wells
Building Assessment Coordinator	Ken Solman
Recreation and Community Facilities Planner	Kate Jordan
Recreation Operations Coordinator	Anne Sanders
Open Space Operations Coordinator	Greg Chapple
Trainee Recreation and Community Facilities Officer	Emma Peel
Civil Maintenance - Manager	Bryce Jamieson
Building Maintenance Coordinator	Noel Sweetman
Building Services Superintendent	Graham Searle
Grants Officer	Keith Whelan
Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service Coordinator	Will Doran

The Cessnock Wine Country Chamber of Commerce and the Kurri Kurri Chamber of Commerce stated that some members had experienced both isolated and regular Malicious Property Damage. Hence both Chambers were concerned about crime offences relating to Malicious Property Damage. Examples of crime offences which had occurred within the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD areas were provided by both organisations. The Branxton/Greta Chamber of Commerce however stated that incidences relating to theft, robbery and motor vehicle accidents are of greater concern to their community. Lastly, the Lovedale and Wollombi Valley Chambers of Commerce both advised that theft, such as incidents relating to stock, household contents and farm equipment was the main issue for their respective communities.

The Cessnock Liquor Accord was consulted as part of the crime prevention planning process. The Cessnock Liquor Accord advised that they had taken proactive action and had implemented strategies to encourage responsible service of alcohol and alcohol related management within licensed premises. For instance initiatives that had been funded and delivered or are intended to be delivered by the Cessnock Liquor Accord include:

- Safe Party Packs.

- During December 2007 and January 2008 a late night loop bus was available which departed from frequented licensed hotels within the Cessnock CBD area and provided patrons with free transport along a specified route within Central Cessnock.
- Delivery of training initiatives such as responsible service of alcohol, the identification of false licenses and identifying secondary suppliers of alcohol.
- Community educational programs such as the prevention of drink spiking.

The Department of Juvenile Justice provided an overview of youth crime specific to the Cessnock LGA. They advised that boredom and alcohol consumption was a factor in Malicious Property Damage. They also advised that adults providing youth with alcohol is an issue within the community. In identifying preventative strategies specific to youth, the Department suggests outreach programs targeted to young people as being necessary. It was suggested that through the offering of interactive, youth specific activities, boredom may lessen, and hence could reduce Malicious Property Damage.

Consultations with the Cessnock PCYC highlighted the range of programs being delivered within the Cessnock LGA. The Cessnock PCYC has formed a successful supporting relationship with the Cessnock District Learning Centre. The Cessnock District Learning Centre provides high school students with a supportive, alternative educational experience and works with young people who are at risk of leaving school early. In addition to the club activities, the Cessnock PCYC conducts special programs for at risk youth and young offenders. These programs are often inclusive of the Cessnock District Learning Centre students and include:

- Youth Leadership Camp. This program is conducted as a collaborative locally developed initiative between PCYC and the Army at Singleton. The four day camp aims to challenge the youth participants to make sound life choices and should not be considered as a fun program. The camp is now a state program and is coordinated by volunteers and conducted by Army, Police and Volunteers.
- Surfing Program. The thirteen week program supervised by the Police aims to deliver a series of crime prevention workshops with at risk youth and young offenders. Education sessions include Drug and Alcohol, Anger Management and Life Choices. The program incorporates surfing lessons at a local surf school, allowing the young people to develop confidence and self esteem in a supportive environment.
- Indoor Rock Climbing. PCYC 'Rock Up' indoor climbing facility provides an environment for Police and Volunteers to work with young people in tailored programs to develop confidence, self esteem, teamwork and communication skills, in a supportive environment through participation in interactive, physical recreation.
- Traffic Offenders Program. This program is conducted over a six week period and is scheduled as a continuous activity all year. The program is supported by a variety of service groups and individuals to educate driver awareness of cause and consequence of driver offences. The program is designed and delivered to all ages of driver who have committed driving offences including: drink driving, speeding and reckless driving. This is a highly effective program and is linked to the court's proceedings.

These programs are all proactive in the delivery of education and awareness in support of the reduction of crime within the community.

Towns with Hearts Inc has delivered in recent years a range of community projects within Kurri Kurri and its neighbouring villages. The development and implementation of the projects have been community driven and have been achieved through community participation. Given the projects have been community inspired for instance the Murals, the Community Wall housed at the Kurri Kurri Rotary Park and the large scale annual Nostalgia Festival a sense of ownership and pride has been created within the community. As a result of the community pride initiatives some community members are of the belief that a positive effect in the reduction of malicious property crime has occurred. Towns with Hearts Inc has advised that there has been little vandalism to the Community Murals.

The Kurri Kurri Community Centre delivers diverse programs which have a social and welfare focus to the residents of the Cessnock LGA and beyond. The staff members consulted from the Kurri Kurri Community Centre report that the actual crime offences are likely to be higher and suggest that the time it takes for an offence to be acted upon deters people from reporting crime to Police. It was also stated that the residents of Kurri Kurri would welcome an increase Policing presence within the community. The team advised that a community education strategy that incorporates Neighborhood Watch could be an effective strategy to pursue. Additionally, it was suggested that youth are unfairly targeted as being the offenders for all of the Malicious Property Damage which occurs within the community. Hence, clarifying these myths was seen to be an important factor in the education of the community in regards to who commit crimes.

A number of Cessnock City Council officers were consulted with as part of the crime prevention planning process. It was advised that Cessnock City Council property is often targeted by vandals. In response to the Malicious Property Damage offence 'graffiti', Council in 2003 adopted the 'Removal of Graffiti' policy. The policy advises that graffiti is to be removed as soon as possible when it is deemed that the graffiti contains language which is considered offensive, is placed on sites considered of key community importance, and/or is a site where there is to be a community based event. It also suggests that Council collate information on the costs to remove graffiti. Section two of the Crime Prevention Plan details the costs to council in repairing Malicious Property Damage.

Cessnock City Council has re-established Alcohol Free Zones within the Cessnock LGA under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1993. The alcohol free zones came into effect 12 March 2009 and expire 12 March 2013. The alcohol free zones are in the following areas:-

CESSNOCK

- Vincent Street, from Maitland Road to Cessnock Street, including cross-sections of Hall Street and Snape Street;
- Charlton Street from Snape Street to the area in front of the cinema and cinema carpark;
- Cooper Street, from Vincent Street to Keene Street;
- Keene Street to the Rugby League Supporters Club parking area;
- The sealed carpark in Vernon Street and Vernon Street from the intersection of Quarrybylong Street to Allan Street;
- Maitland Road in front of the Cessnock Hotel, public laneway adjoining the public carpark at the rear.

KURRI KURRI

- Lang Street, from Allworth Street to Mitchell Avenue, including cross-street section to Mitchell Avenue/Victoria Street and Hampden Street;
- Barton Street, from Hampden Street to Allworth Street;
- Allworth Street to the laneway and including the laneway behind the Kurri Kurri Community Centre.

WESTON

- Cessnock Road, between Hall Street and unnamed land west of Station Street;
- Station Street, between First Street and Cessnock Road.

The Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service (CYCOS) is a Cessnock City Council service. It delivers a range of interactive activities to young people in a supportive and supervised environment. The aim of the service is to lessen boredom and encourage youth participation in the community. The centre is located on Aberdare Road, Cessnock and is operational Wednesday evenings through to Saturday evenings. The centre is open from 4pm to 8pm. However on Friday evenings the centre is open from 4pm to 9pm. Over a period of one year (July 2007 to June 2008) there were 4,342 occasions of service provided to young people. In an attempt to deliver youth friendly programs, the CYCOS undertakes regular user service consultations. This strategy has allowed the service to be adaptive and responsive to the needs of youth.

The Central Hunter Local Area Command, NSW Police Force was consulted with and requested to provide an insight into Malicious Property Damage offences for the Cessnock LGA. Local Police data was seen as a useful tool for crime prevention planning as it expands upon BOCSAR data. The crime data collected by the police force is able to map Malicious Damage location hotspots. This information was invaluable and allowed for a more thorough critique of crime trends and their location within the Cessnock LGA. The findings suggest that the Cessnock CBD area and the main arterial roads which connect the CBD area to the surrounding Central Cessnock townships require situational crime prevention strategies. Additionally, the Kurri Kurri CBD area would also benefit from targeted situational crime prevention strategies.

The Hunter Valley Local Area Command Service was consulted given that the Greta/Branxton area falls within this particular policing boundary. The findings from this consultation process were that the Greta/Branxton area was not identified as a hotspot for Malicious Property Damage. Specific to the Branxton community, a further consultation was undertaken with Singleton Shire Council, given the township shares a local government boundary and Branxton suburb residents could belong to either the Singleton Council or Cessnock City Council. Given this circumstance it was considered best practice for these councils to collaborate in the crime prevention planning process.

Lastly, a campaign which encourages all residents in the community to improve the security of their property is considered to be advantageous. This was suggested as a necessary action strategy by both the NSW Police Force and several Chambers of Commerce throughout the area. It was suggested that an educational campaign could focus on several components, for instance:

- Protecting household properties from Malicious Property Damage.
- Protecting rural properties from Malicious Property Damage.
- Protecting businesses from Malicious Property Damage

SECTION 2: OVERVIEW OF CRIME IN THE CESSNOCK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

In ascertaining the incidents of all crime for the Cessnock LGA, data from BOCSAR was sourced. This data provides a snapshot into the current crime situation for the LGA by breaking down the incidents of reported crime for each offence. The data demonstrates that for the Cessnock LGA, Malicious Property Damage is by far the most reported offence with 840 incidences recorded for 2007. This is followed by Assault (Non Domestic Violence Related), Break and Enter (Dwelling), Break and Enter (Non Dwelling), Assault (Domestic Violence related), Steal from Motor Vehicle, Steal from Dwelling and Motor Vehicle Theft.

Chart 1 reflects the number of offences reported for each of these crimes.

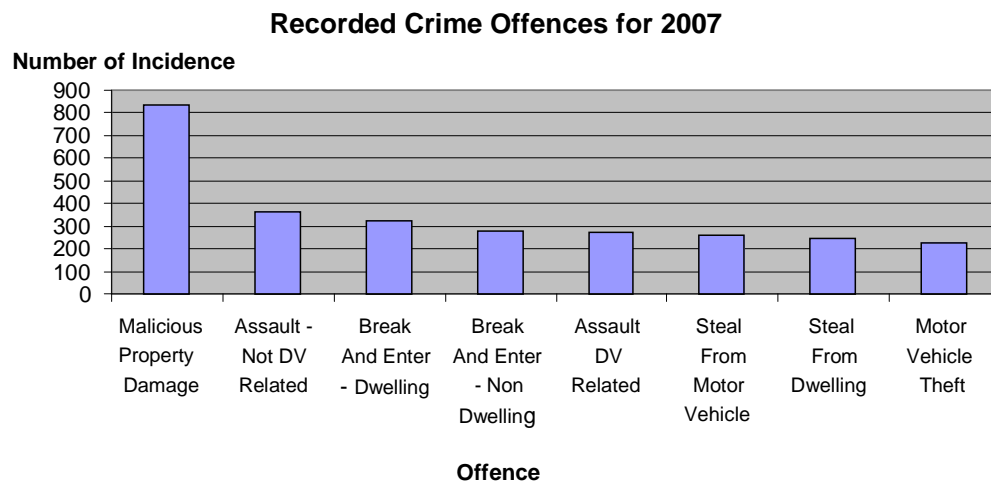


Chart 1. Source: BOCSAR

The data from BOCSAR for the 2007 calendar year suggests that Malicious Property Damage occurred more frequently at residential properties, followed by commercial premises (such as retail/wholesale outlets, licensed premises, personal services, office premises, and financial institutions), outdoor and recreational spaces, educational facilities and car parks in that order.

Table 1 provides an overview of the 5 most recorded Malicious Property Damage incidents occurring in the Cessnock LGA for 2007, by premises type.

Premises Type	Number of Incidence
Residential Properties	426
Business/Commercial	161
Outdoor/Recreational Space	117
Education	83
Car parks	26

Table 1. Source: BOCSAR

However, in analysing the data to ascertain why Malicious Damage occurs more frequently to residential properties, the data collection process from BOCSAR in respect to Malicious Property Damage needs to be explained.

The BOCSAR data for the offence Malicious Property Damage includes damage to the home which is a result of a Domestic Violence (DV) offence. In 2007 alone, there were 271 recorded offences for Domestic Violence within the Cessnock LGA (BOCSAR). It should be noted, therefore, that some of the 426 incidence of residential Malicious Property Damage are Domestic Violence related. In respect to Domestic Violence offences, the Cessnock LGA is ranked second highest when compared to the Hunter Statistical Division and is well above the NSW state average. One of the key strategies already in existence in the reduction of Domestic Violence offences is the Cessnock Anti Violence Network (CAVN). The CAVN is now a well established group with membership from a range of community, welfare and health services based within the Cessnock LGA. The CAVN is actively working on a number of projects which aim to reduce Domestic Violence. The CAVN regularly evaluates its initiatives and is adaptive to the needs of the community. The incidence of Domestic Violence is therefore being addressed through strategies outside of the Crime Prevention Plan.

ECONOMIC COSTS OF MALICIOUS PROPERTY DAMAGE

In exploring the impact of Malicious Property Damage that occurs within the commercial setting, significant financial costs are incurred by business owners. A recent survey undertaken by the Cessnock Wine Country Chamber of Commerce regarding the costs incurred by business owners to repair Malicious Property Damage (within the Cessnock CBD area alone) provides a base estimate for a six month period.

The survey results indicate that the repair costs incurred by these businesses during that period were substantial. However, many local businesses were unable to estimate these costs, stating that they had lost count, or that the amounts were so great.

Additionally, Council itself experiences Malicious Property Damage. Vandalism to Council facilities across the LGA generally occurs outside of daylight hours and often during the weekend. Regular examples include damage to public toilets (plumbing, pans and graffiti); smashing of windows; driving on surfaces and damage to sporting ovals; damage to children's playgrounds; damage to taps, bubblers and lights in parks, street signs, bus shelters as well as damage and removal of fencing and plants in gardens and newly established street trees. The cost of Malicious Property Damage to Council over the past three financial years has been summarised in the table below.

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Public Amenities & Privies	\$43,500	\$46,100	\$59,786
Parks	\$56,500	\$72,872	\$46,410
TOTAL COST	\$100,000	\$118,972	\$106,196

Table 2. Source: Cessnock City Council

CRIME RANK ANALYSIS OF MALICIOUS PROPERTY DAMAGE

In order to understand where the Cessnock LGA is placed in relative terms regarding the incidents of Malicious Property Damage, data from BOCSAR was sourced. For every crime offence, BOCSAR compares each LGA across New South Wales and allocates each a rank from 1 to 143. A score of 1 indicates the highest level of crime. Of the 143 LGA's within New South Wales, Cessnock was ranked 64 for Malicious Property Damage for the year 2007.

In summary,

- There were 840 incidents of Malicious Property Damage in 2007.
- In comparison to the Hunter Statistical Division, the Cessnock LGA was ranked 6 out of 11 for Malicious Property Damage.
- The incidents of Malicious Property Damage, per 100,000 population for the year 2007 were 1723.3. This is higher in comparison to the NSW state average, which was recorded as 1576.9.
- In a 36 month period, extending from April 2005 to March 2008, the incidents of Malicious Property Damage have been stable.
- The incidents of Malicious Property Damage are likely to be higher, given some offences such as graffiti are not reported to police.
- In comparison to the Greater Taree LGA, which is of comparative population size to the Cessnock LGA, the rank for Malicious Property Damage incidents was 55.

**Cessnock Local Government Area, Malicious Damage to Property
April 2005 – March 2008**

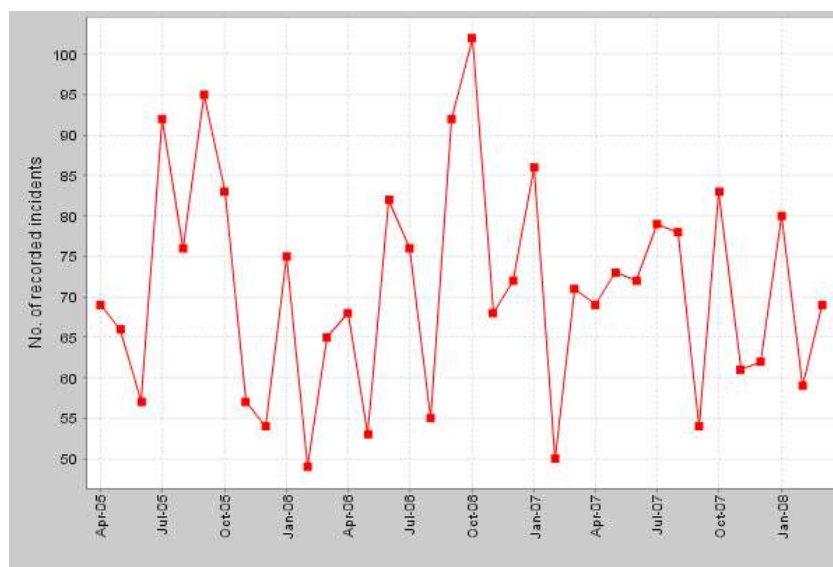


Chart 2. Source: BOCSAR

PERSON'S OF INTEREST OF MALICIOUS PROPERTY DAMAGE ACROSS THE CESSNOCK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The following table reflects the age of person's of interest against whom police proceedings were instituted in relation to Malicious Property Damage offences for the Cessnock LGA, for the period July 2007 to June 2008. This data excludes Malicious Property Damage incidences which are related to a Domestic Violence offence.

Age Range	Number of People
0-10 years	10
11-13 years	2
14-17 years	41
18-21 years	58
22-25 years	24
26-29 years	31
30-39 years	47
40-45 years	16
46-55 years	7
56 + years	5
TOTAL	241

Table 3. Source: NSW Police

Furthermore, the data from the NSW Police Force advises that of these 241 person's of interest, 51 recorded alcohol as an associated factor for Malicious Property Damage offences. Violence was the second highest associated factor.

In analysing the data further and in discussions with NSW Police Force it is suggested that:

- Many person's of interest of Malicious Property Damage are unable to be apprehended.
- A proportion of adults affected by alcohol contributes to the incidence of Malicious Property Damage.
- A proportion of young people commit crimes for reasons such as boredom and/or affected by alcohol through secondary suppliers.
- Crime prevention initiatives need to be targeted to both youth and adults.

SECTION THREE: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

AN IDENTIFICATION OF LOCATIONS WHERE CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL

The NSW Police Force was able to provide Council with information regarding the geographical locations where crime prevention strategies would be most beneficial. This information suggests that:

- Malicious Property Damage is occurring along the main roadway areas which connect residential townships to the Cessnock CBD area.
- Malicious Property Damage is being experienced within the Cessnock CBD area.
- Malicious Property Damage is being experienced within the Kurri Kurri CBD area.
- The Cessnock CBD area when compared to other townships within the Cessnock LGA is experiencing Malicious Property Damage more frequently.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT FOR THE CESSNOCK CBD AREA

The below text is a summary of the report titled, 'Community Safety Audits, Cessnock Central Business District', September 2008, authored by Senior Constable Brian Coffey (Central Hunter Local Area Command, Crime Prevention Officer).

Community safety audits are a means to document current and potentially dangerous locations within public areas, which may stimulate the likelihood of crime and increase the level of community fear and concerns. The Central Hunter Local Area Command, Crime Prevention Officer, Senior Constable Brian Coffey and three Volunteers in Police, attached to Cessnock Police Station conducted a preliminary community safety audit of the Cessnock CBD for both the daytime and evening. The preliminary audit focused on the commercial centre of the Cessnock CBD in addition to the rear of commercial premises. The audit considered primary pedestrian and traffic routes for both workers and customers of the commercial area and patrons accessing licensed premises within the Cessnock CBD.

The preliminary findings of the audit team were that there were a number of inadequacies in respect to the existing safety and security in the audited area, which need to be addressed in order to minimise risk to both people and property. The findings included:

- *Some businesses' under eave lighting in the Cessnock CBD is not adequately maintained – owners are possibly not aware of this due to the area not being popular for late night trade by shopkeepers.*
- *Laneway illumination in most of the lanes that feed off Vincent Street was lacking or malfunctioning. Poor or non existent lighting increases avoidance behaviour where people do not feel comfortable accessing such locations.*

- *Overgrown landscaping was identified in some locations, where concealment opportunities have been created as well as poor sight lines for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Most of these appear to be on private property.*
- *Late night transport options from the CBD area were limited and observed as irregular.*

It is the recommendation of Senior Constable Brian Coffey that a further, more comprehensive audit of specific use areas for both Cessnock and Kurri Kurri will provide a useful crime prevention tool that may be utilised by Cessnock City Council and NSW Police. A comprehensive audit will take time to conduct and be reported on, and could be commissioned in consultation with the Central Hunter Local Area Command, Crime Prevention Officer.

PRIORITY TIMES FOR CRIME PREVENTION

The data from the NSW Police Force extends on the data made available from BOCSAR by offering a local analysis of crime. Given the CBD areas and their surrounds for Cessnock and Kurri Kurri have been identified as the target areas most in need of crime prevention strategies, an understanding of when crime occurs is essential.

The following chart reflects the incidence of Malicious Property Damage for these concentrated areas and is compared to the entire Cessnock LGA. For Cessnock the geography used for this mapping exercise was a radius of 1.5 kilometres with the central point located at the intersection of Vincent and Cooper Streets. The same methodology was used for Kurri Kurri. The centre of the radius point for Kurri Kurri was Hampden and Barton Streets. This data excludes incidences of Malicious Property Damage that is a result of a Domestic Violence offence.

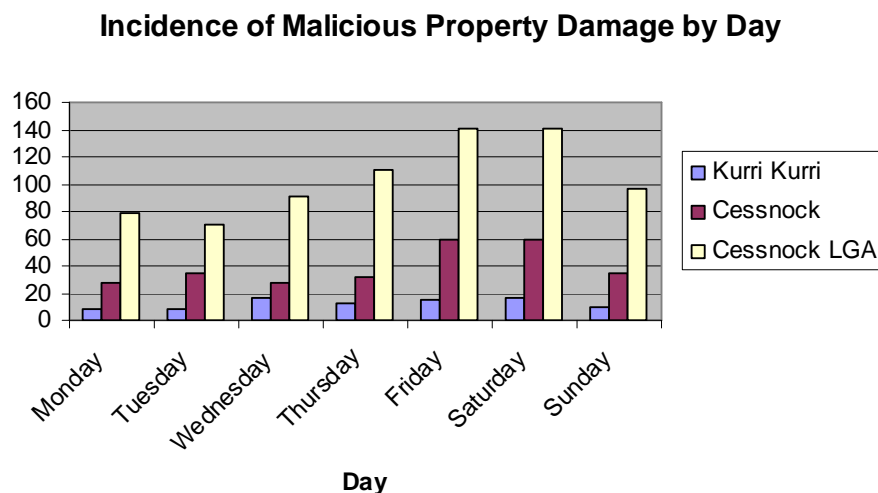


Chart 3. Source: NSW Police (July 2007 to June 2008)

In summary the chart suggests that:

- Within the central Cessnock area, Malicious Property Damage occurs more frequently on a Friday and Saturday.
- For the central Kurri Kurri area, Wednesday ranked the highest followed by Saturday and then Friday.
- Within the central Cessnock area, there were 274 Malicious Property Damage offences recorded for the period July 2007 to June 2008.
- Within the central Kurri Kurri area, there were 86 Malicious Property Damage offences recorded for the period July 2007 to June 2008.

Incidence by Time for Malicious Property Damage

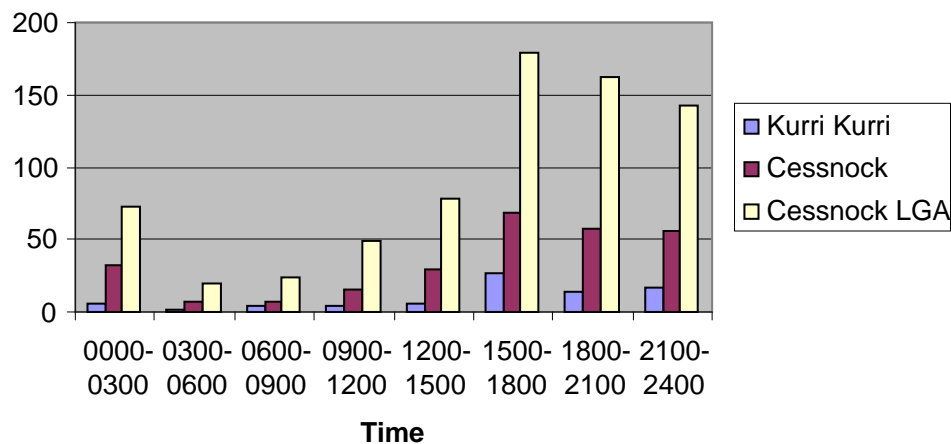


Chart 4. Source: NSW Police (July 2007 to June 2008)

In summary the chart suggests that:

- Malicious Property Damage offences occur more frequently between the hours of 3pm to 3am. This trend is the same for both the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD areas and the entire Cessnock LGA.

However on the advice of NSW Police it is suggested that this result is related to the nature of NSW Police recording for Malicious Property Damage offences. For instance, in the case of offences against residential premises, the incident often occurs sometime during the night and is often not noticed until morning time when the occupant finds damage to their property. For offences against

commercial premises, this timeframe will often be between when a business has finished trading in the afternoon to when they open on the next trading day.

Hence, it is often the case the Malicious Property Damage is reported by people who did not see the offence being committed. In such circumstances NSW Police can document only a suggested time frame in which the offence occurred. Hence, in such circumstances the time that is recorded is the last time that the property was seen without damage. When viewing the chart 'Incidence by Time for Malicious Property Damage' the reader needs to be mindful of the recording rule as used by NSW Police. The above rationale may also assist in explaining why offences in the 3pm to 6pm timeframe scored highest.

SECTION FOUR: EVALUATION OF THE CESSNOCK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

The Crime Prevention Plan, once implemented, will be reviewed and evaluated on an annual basis. The Council project officer who will oversee the implementation of the Crime Prevention Plan will be responsible for ensuring that the crime prevention strategies are being worked towards. This evaluation process will include an analysis for each strategy as well as an evaluation of the entire plan.

Additionally, a comparative analysis using crime data will be used to assess the success of the Crime Prevention Plan. Given the Crime Prevention Plan uses crime data from both BOCSAR and the NSW Police Force, an annual review of data from both services will be analysed as a method of answering a series of comparative evaluative questions.

This comparative analysis will consider the following indicators:

- Number of reported incidences for Malicious Property Damage.
- Rates per a 100,000 population for Malicious Property Damage.
- Situational analysis of the crime hotspots identified in the Crime Prevention Plan.

Additionally, parties involved in the consultation process as part of the formulation of the Crime Prevention Plan will be asked to comment and provide feedback regarding their perceptions as to how the Crime Prevention Plan is meeting the objectives detailed for the Malicious Property Damage prevention strategies.

This consultation process will include the distribution of survey forms and discussions with the parties involved.

This evaluation strategy will be undertaken annually.

CRIME PREVENTION ACTION PLAN

<u>Target Offence:</u>	Malicious Property Damage
<u>Project:</u>	The project outlines eight crime prevention strategies. The Crime Prevention Action Plan documents situational crime prevention strategies which focus on the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD Areas. Additionally the plan aims to encourage the reporting of crime and education on property protection strategies specific to Malicious Property Damage and targeted to the entire community.
<u>Rationale:</u>	The crime data from NSW Police advises that for Malicious Property Damage, the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD Areas are in most need of crime prevention strategies. The data also suggests that there is a relationship between alcohol and Malicious Property Damage offences. Secondly, it is considered effective to educate and inform all residents within the Cessnock LGA of strategies that they could implement to reduce the likelihood of damage to their properties.
<u>Objective:</u>	The objective of the Cessnock LGA Crime Prevention Plan is twofold. Firstly to reduce incidences of Malicious Property Damage within the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD Areas. Secondly to promote the community's involvement in the prevention of Malicious Property crime.
<u>Lead Agency & Partners:</u>	Lead Agency: Cessnock City Council. Partners to include NSW Police Force, Cessnock Liquor Accord, all Business Chambers within the Cessnock LGA, Cessnock PCYC and the Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service.
<u>Expected Outcome:</u>	The expected outcome of the Crime Prevention Plan is that there will be a reduction in the level of Malicious Property Damage for the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD. A second expectation is that the community will have an increased awareness of Malicious Property crimes and crime prevention strategies that they as residents can implement.

PREVENTION OF ALCOHOL RELATED MALICIOUS PROPERTY DAMAGE

Action Strategy 1

Increase Late Night Transport Options in Cessnock CBD

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
<p>Research and implement strategies that reduce pedestrian traffic travelling from licensed premises to Residential Areas within the Central Cessnock area particularly on a Friday and Saturday night.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of appropriate models identified. • Number of grant applications made. • Evaluation of the effectiveness of the program (once identified) with a report to Council. 	<p>Within 12 months of the final approval for strategy.</p>	<p>Staffing Costs \$10,000</p> <p>Program Costs to be advised once the outcome of milestone 1 is known.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analysis of best practice principles in offering late night transport. 2. Meet with transport stakeholders and discuss options. 3. Research funding opportunities. 4. Applications made to funding bodies. 5. Implementation of strategy upon receipt of grant funding.

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Action Strategy 2

Education – Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
<p>The Cessnock City Council, City Planning Department be provided with regular educational opportunities on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two staff per annum to receive formal training in Crime Prevention by Environmental Design Principles. • Number of in-service training sessions undertaken within Council. 	<p>Within 3 months of the final approval for the strategy.</p>	<p>\$2,500 p.a</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of appropriate courses. 2. Enrolment of Council City Planning Staff in Crime Prevention by Environmental Design Course. 3. Staff member/s who attend(s) training provides in-service education session to other staff within City Planning Department.

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES (CONTINUED)

Action Strategy 3

Community Safety Audits

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
<p>Cessnock City Council to work in partnership with the NSW Police Force in undertaking a complete Community Safety Audit for the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD Areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Community Safety Audit for the Cessnock CBD area with recommendations outlined. • Completion of Community Safety Audit for the Kurri Kurri CBD area with recommendations outlined. • The number of recommendations that were worked towards and achieved. 	<p>Within 6 months of the final approval for the strategy.</p>	<p>Staff hours to co-ordinate this strategy. \$2,000.00</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request NSW Police to undertake a Community Safety Audit for the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD areas. 2. Findings from the Community Safety Audit provided to Cessnock City Council by NSW Police. 3. Report tabled to Council with recommendations for works. 4. Council decides on the recommendations. 5. Works undertaken over the course of the Crime Prevention Plan.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

Action Strategy 4

Study of Closed Circuit Television

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
<p>Study to occur regarding the benefits, limitations and costs of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) within the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD Areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application to Australian Government Attorney General's Department for funding of CCTV. • Report to Council regarding the outcomes of the study. • Decision to be made regarding the effectiveness of CCTV for the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD Areas. • Actions to be implemented as per the recommendation of Council. 	<p>Within 9 months of the final approval for strategy.</p>	<p>Staffing Costs \$10,000</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applications made for grant funding. 2. Investigation by project officer of the value of CCTV for the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD area. 3. Completed analysis of the financial costs to install, maintain and update CCTV equipment. 4. Community consultations completed with stakeholders regarding their perceptions of the value of CCTV. 5. If considered an appropriate strategy, locations for CCTV to be identified. 6. NSW Police to be notified of CCTV locations.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SAFETY

Action Strategy 5

Tradeshow showcasing Latest Security Products

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
<p>A tradeshow be offered which showcases safety products specific to the business sector to be held within the Cessnock LGA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of attendees. • Number of exhibitors. • Qualitative feedback from the Chambers of Commerce within the Cessnock LGA. • Qualitative feedback from the exhibitors regarding attendees' level of interest. 	<p>Within 12 months of the final approval for the strategy.</p>	<p>\$10,000 Venue Costs; Staff hours to plan and co-ordinate the event.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project officer appointed to deliver and promote trade show in the Cessnock LGA. 2. Project officer co-ordinates trade show and has liaised with all Chambers of Commerce within the Cessnock LGA. 3. Project officer promotes trade show through established groups including Chambers of Commerce. 4. Evaluation of trade show.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SAFETY (CONTINUED)

Action Strategy 6

Education Campaign – Protecting Properties

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
<p>Deliver a Cessnock LGA wide promotional educational program targeted to the householder and rural business owner which aims to protect property, including vehicles and stock from Malicious Property Damage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of range and effectiveness of resources. • Qualitative feedback from residents of the Cessnock LGA regarding its effectiveness. 	<p>Within 6 months of the final approval for the strategy.</p>	<p>Advertising, Promotions & Postage</p> <p>\$15,000</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider best practice for crime prevention promotional material. 2. Input sought from community stakeholders in regards to appropriate mediums to deliver crime prevention messages. 3. Development of material that focuses on both residential properties and rural business properties. 4. Delivery of material to the residents of the Cessnock LGA.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SAFETY (CONTINUED)

Action Strategy 7

Community Education – Reporting Crime

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
<p>Deliver a Cessnock LGA wide media and community promotional campaign highlighting the need to report Malicious Property Crime.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver 4 media campaigns per annum. • Number of Promotional Mediums. • Qualitative feedback from the community regarding media campaigns. • Review of NSW police data and BOCSAR data for incidence of Malicious Property Damage. 	<p>Within 6 months of the final approval for the strategy.</p>	<p>Advertising & Promotions \$3,000 p.a</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research and development of effective media campaign, relevant to the action strategy. 2. Through stakeholders, identify appropriate mediums for advertising that aims to reach all members of the community. 3. Deliver media campaign to community.

WORKING WITH YOUTH

Action Strategy 8

Targeted Youth Crime Prevention Strategies

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
<p>Provide youth with crime prevention education and deliver activities that lessen boredom and allows for increased participation within the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Youth Programs offered. • Attendance Numbers at Youth Events • Evaluative Feedback from Service Providers. • Evaluative Feedback from Young People 	<p>Within 6 months of the final approval for the strategy.</p>	<p>Youth Programs and Outreach Activities</p> <p>\$15,000 p.a</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Forum held with young people at risk, identifying suitable outreach programs. 2. Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service allocated funds to deliver youth programs in partnership with agencies who work with young people at risk. 3. Delivery of programs which lessen boredom and increase participation with the community.

THE COST TO DELIVER THE CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

The delivery of the plan will be over a period of three years, 2009-2012.

The funding of the Cessnock Crime Prevention Plan will be provided by Cessnock City Council in addition to external funding being sourced. For instance, possible external funding opportunities may include but not limited to the Australian Government Attorney General's Department, NSW Attorney General's Department, Ministry of Transport and the Community Development Expenditure Scheme.

It is suggested that Council, during the first year of the plan, appoint a temporary Crime Prevention Officer to deliver the larger scale projects as outlined in the Crime Prevention Plan.

ACTION STRATEGY	YEAR ONE 2009/10	YEAR TWO 2010/11	YEAR THREE 2011/12	TOTAL FUNDING
1. Increase Late Night Transport Options in Cessnock CBD	\$10,000.00 (STAFFING)	-	-	\$10,000.00
2. Education – Crime Prevention through Environmental Design	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$7,500.00
3. Community Safety Audits	\$2,000.00 (STAFFING)	-	-	\$2,000.00
4. Study of Closed Circuit Television	\$10,000.00 (STAFFING)	-	-	\$10,000.00
5. Tradeshow showcasing Latest Security Products	\$10,000.00 (INCLUDES STAFFING)	-	-	\$10,000.00
6. Education Campaign – Protecting Properties	\$15,000.00	-	-	\$15,000.00
7. Community Education – Reporting Crime	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$9,000.00
8. Targeted Youth Crime Prevention Strategies	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$45,000.00
TOTAL	\$67,500.00	\$20,500.00	\$20,500.00	\$108,500.00

REFERENCE LIST

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