An Evaluation Study for the Cessnock Local Government Area (2009 to 2012)

Crime Prevention Plan
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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REFERENCE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan was a three year planning document that was initially implemented in 2009 and ceased as a strategy in 2012. The Plan contained eight action strategies and each had a prime focus on reducing the incidence of Malicious Property Damage. With the Plan now complete, this report aims to evaluate both the success and limitations of the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan.

With the support of the community and key stakeholders, the consultation process for the actual Crime Prevention Plan commenced in 2008. After a considerable process of community engagement, a Plan was later developed and in July 2009 Cessnock City Council resolved to adopt the three year, Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan (2009-2012). The Plan was subsequently endorsed by the Department of Attorney General and Justice in January 2010.

With the now finalisation of the Crime Prevention Plan, a thorough evaluation process has occurred. In reviewing the eight strategies and their outcomes, there were in total twenty seven performance measures that were required to be achieved. Of the twenty seven performance measures, twenty six were fully achieved. The remaining one Performance Measure which was partially achieved changed focus midway through the Plan. What resulted was a more sustainable project and involved the ratification of a ‘Consultation Protocol for the Referral of Development Applications to the NSW Police by Cessnock City Council’. This change in focus was a much more superior outcome then was envisaged three years prior when the Plan was initially drafted.

In actioning the eight strategies, the three year Crime Prevention Plan cost Council $92,150.39. With the support of external organisations, additional financial contributions were allocated to assist with the implementation of a range of Crime Prevention Projects and this resulted in $54,837.10 worth of external funding. As a result, the Crime Prevention Plan was delivered well within the budget allocated by Cessnock City Council (Council budget allocation was $120,000). When considering all funding sources, $146,987.49 was expended on local crime prevention projects.

Overall, the findings suggest that the Crime Prevention Plan has been an extremely successful project and has been well supported by key stakeholders involved in its design and/or delivery. Council is appreciative of the support from all key stakeholders who assisted with the design and delivery of the Crime Prevention Plan, in particular the support provided by the Crime Management Unit, Central Hunter Local Area Command, NSW Police more specifically, Sergeant Michael McDonnell, Sergeant Darren Waters, Senior Constable Michael Steele and Senior Constable Kel Boak.
SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION - THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

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 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 is 52,493 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Estimated Resident Population, 2011). The area has experienced considerable recent growth and between 2011 and 2006 Census years, the Local Government Area grew at an average 2.04% per annum.

At the time of preparing the Crime Prevention Plan in 2008 an analysis of the crime data for the Cessnock Local Government Area indicated that Malicious Property Damage was the most prevalent offence and had 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.

In 2008/09 (financial year), 962 incidents of Malicious Property offences were recorded. Both the crime data and the consultation process identified the Central Business District (CBD) areas of Cessnock and Kurri Kurri as crime hotspots for the Local Government Area in respect to Malicious Property Damage. The Central Business Districts of Greta and Branxton were not identified as crime hotspots for Malicious Property Damage nor were Pokolbin, Lovedale and Wollombi (although not necessarily having a Central Business District area within its locality).

Given the results of the available crime data and the consultation findings, the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan focused on minimising Malicious Property Damage within the Central Business District areas of Cessnock and Kurri Kurri. However, it was acknowledged in the Plan that all households and businesses within the Cessnock Local Government Area would benefit from a Malicious Property Damage crime action strategy. Hence, the Crime Prevention Plan also included action strategies which aimed to reduce Malicious Property Damage offences for all households and businesses. Additionally, the Plan had a strategy that aimed to work with young people through the delivery of a range of crime prevention programs.

In summary, the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan aimed to achieve a reduction of Malicious Property Damage through adoption of the following eight 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 (now called Development Services) 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.

It was documented in the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan (2009-2012) that at its completion, a thorough evaluation process was to occur.

With the now completion of the three year Crime Prevention Plan, this document aims to evaluate both its success and limitations. By undertaking such thorough evaluation, it is hoped that this process will ensure accountability for the eight listed Action Strategies and also determine whether the Plan has met its objectives. The evaluation will also assist to establish if the budget has been appropriately expended.
## Important Milestones of the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 2009</strong></td>
<td>Council resolves to adopt the Plan. Council as part of its budget process allocates funding to action the plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 2009</strong></td>
<td>The actioning of the three year Plan commences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 2010</strong></td>
<td>After a six month approval process, the Plan is endorsed by the Department of Attorney General and Justice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 2012 to October 2012</strong></td>
<td>The three year Crime Prevention Plan formally expires and projects are in the process of finalisation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 2012 to February 2013</strong></td>
<td>The review process for the Crime Prevention Plan occurs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION TWO – A MODEL FOR THE EVALUATION PROCESS

Cessnock City Council has been diligent in ensuring that the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan was implemented at full capacity. To ensure superior evaluation of the Plan, Council has progressively recorded the results of each action strategy as it was delivered.

Council also regularly consulted with the Central Hunter Local Area Command, Crime Management Unit, in particular Sergeant Darren Waters (Crime Co-ordinator) and Sergeant Michael McDonnell (Intelligence Supervisor) to ensure the Plan was meeting its intended objectives. This partnership between Cessnock City Council and NSW Police also provided the opportunity to have regular reviews regarding the incidence of Malicious Property Damage crime within the Cessnock Local Government Area during the life of the Plan.

In evaluating the Plan, a framework has been developed which ensures that the Plan is fully considered from a number of perspectives. This framework is displayed below.
Section Three – Findings from the Evaluation Process
ANALYSIS OF CRIME STATISTICS FOR MALICIOUS PROPERTY DAMAGE

To assist with the evaluation process for the Crime Prevention Plan, crime statistics were sourced from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) and the Crime Management Unit, Central Hunter Local Area Command, NSW Police.

The purpose for consulting crime data was to determine if there were any changes to the incidence of Malicious Property Damage for both the,

- Cessnock Local Government Area; and
- Hotspot localities within the Cessnock Local Government Area, namely the Cessnock Central Business District and Kurri Kurri Central Business District Area’s.

Crime Statistics - Findings

In reviewing the crime statistics, an analysis was undertaken for not only the Plan’s delivery years (July 2009 to June 2012) but also the year prior to its implementation (July 2008 to June 2009).

From an analysis of this time period (July 2008 to June 2012), the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research reported a statistically significant downward trend for the Cessnock Local Government Area with an average annual percentage change of -4.8%.

This trend is reflected in the below table and also provides consideration as to rates per a 10,000 population. A rate per a 10,000 population is important given the Cessnock Local Government Area grew at an annual rate of 2.04% or approximately 3,000 people during the life of the Plan. Hence an annual decline of -4.8% is a positive result given a growing population. However, it is noted at the conclusion of the Plan, the state ranking for the Local Government Area actually worsened. This may indicate that although the Cessnock Local Government Area had a decline in Malicious Property Damage during the life of the Plan, the decline may not have been as prevalent when compared to some other local government areas within the State.

### Malicious Property Damage Offences, Rates per 10,000 Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINANCIAL YEAR</th>
<th>INCIDENCE FOR CESSNOCK LGA</th>
<th>RATES PER 10,000 POPULATION IN REFERENCE TO CESSNOCK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION</th>
<th>LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA RANK (WITH 1 BEING THE HIGHEST INCIDENCE OF CRIME)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>826</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research & Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Please Note: At the time of collecting crime data for the preparation of the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan, there were 840 recorded offences for Malicious Property Damage for the calendar year 2007. It is difficult to compare this 2007 data with the above table, given the Plan was later delivered in accordance with Financial Years and not Calendar Years. However, if to adjust this rate (840 offences for 2007) per a 10,000 population, the incidence of crime would be 171 offences.
Benchmark Comparisons

To evaluate further how the Cessnock Local Government Area performed, it is important to benchmark with the wider Hunter Region and the state of New South Wales and determine how other areas scored during the same reporting period (July 2008 to June 2012). The table overleaf highlights that besides the Maitland Local Government Area all other areas experienced a decline for the incidence of reported Malicious Property Damage. In exploring this comparison further, the decline in Malicious Property Crime for the Cessnock Local Government Area was less when compared to the average for the Hunter Region, down -5.8% and New South Wales, down -7.3%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Government Area</th>
<th>Trend (%)</th>
<th>Rank per Capita (2011) WITH 1 BEING THE HIGHEST INCIDENCE OF CRIME</th>
<th>Did a Crime Prevention Plan exist at anytime during July 2008 to June 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muswellbrook</td>
<td>Down – 9.1%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singleton</td>
<td>Down – 9.0%</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>Down – 8.2%</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Alcohol Management Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td>Down – 7.3%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Region</td>
<td>Down – 5.8%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Stephens</td>
<td>Down – 5.8%</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cessnock</td>
<td>Down - 4.8%</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Macquarie</td>
<td>Down - 4.6%</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maitland</td>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Crime Statistics for Central Business Districts

The Crime Prevention Plan contained three Action Strategies which had a specific focus on the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Central Business Districts. These Action Strategies were,

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

- 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.

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

The outcomes of the above Action Strategies are documented further in the report. However, it is fitting to consider at this point the incidence of crime for central Cessnock and central Kurri Kurri. Data provided by the NSW Police Force extends on the data made available from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research by offering a local analysis of crime. Given the Central Business Districts for Cessnock and Kurri Kurri and its surrounds were identified as target areas most in need of crime prevention strategies, an understanding of this more localised crime is necessary. For Cessnock, the geography used for this crime statistics 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. The findings suggest (table overleaf) somewhat of a decline in reported Malicious Property Crime for both localities.
Reported Malicious Property Crime for Central Business District Localities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINANCIAL YEAR</th>
<th>CENTRAL CESSNOCK</th>
<th>CENTRAL KURRI KURRI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NSW Police Force, Central Hunter Local Area Command

Challenges with Interpreting Crime Statistics - Under Reporting of Crime

When using crime statistics as a tool for an evaluation process, it is important to acknowledge however that not all incidence of Malicious Property crime is reported to Police. For instance Weatherburn (Australian Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2011) reported that the ‘Crime Victimisation Survey’ for the financial year 2010/11 advised that only 49% of Malicious Property Damage offences were reported. In acknowledging the under reporting of crime at the time of drafting the Plan and this being a barrier to potential external funding opportunities, the Crime Prevention Plan sought to encourage people to report crime incidents. Hence, Action Strategy Six and Seven sought to deliver local crime prevention programs that encouraged crime reporting.

Interestingly, May 2010 and July 2011 saw the delivery of wide scale local community education programs that encouraged the reporting of crime. In reviewing the crime data supplied by the Bureau of Crime, Statistics and Research (chart below) it reflects that in the immediate months post the distribution of the majority of promotional material, recorded offences for Malicious Property Damage rose sharply.

July 2008 to June 2012
Malicious Damage to Property, Cessnock Local Government Area

In assessing this trend, it is possible that an increased local awareness, may have contributed to, at times higher incidence of reported Malicious Property Damage crime offences. Hence, if to consider the crime data on face value it may appear at times that crime rates have increased, but if to explore this further, it may be the case that more people reported crime given awareness raising programs.

Please Note: In critiquing the two remaining peaks that occurred during the life of the Plan, (as reflected in the chart on the previous page) August 2009 saw the Crime Prevention Plan well promoted in the media given its subsequent adoption by Council. Furthermore, November 2010 saw the CCTV Research Strategy well published in the local media given the issue was before Council. It is unclear if the later two mentioned peaks had any bearing on the increased incidence of reported crime never the less, it is felt important to mention.
CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Council acknowledges the considerable effort of Stakeholders in supporting and actioning the strategies listed within the Crime Prevention Plan. As such, it was important for Council to engage in conversations with key stakeholders regarding the success and limitations of the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan.

In valuing this evaluation feedback, consultation occurred at many levels to determine level of satisfaction with the Plan’s implementation. The methodology for this evaluation consultation process involved,

- Consultation with representatives from the Crime Management Unit, Central Hunter Local Area Command.
- Consultation with representatives from Hunter Valley Local Area Command.
- Discussion with members from the Community Safety Precinct Committee.
- Process evaluations undertaken at the conclusion of crime prevention projects associated with each of the eight action strategies.
- A focus group providing an opportunity for all key stakeholders involved in the design and/or delivery to come together and discuss the Plans overall implementation and its impact. This process was held post the completion of the Crime Prevention Plan (September 2012).

In summary, the following key stakeholders participated in the evaluation consultation process.

NSW Police Force

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSW Police Force</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Hunter Local Area Command, Licensing Sergeant</td>
<td>Sergeant Brett James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Hunter Local Area Command, Intelligence Supervisor</td>
<td>Sergeant Michael McDonnell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Hunter Local Area Command, Crime Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Sergeant Darren Waters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Hunter Local Area Command, Youth Liaison Officer</td>
<td>Senior Constable Michael Steele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Hunter Local Area Command, Crime Prevention Officer</td>
<td>Senior Constable Kel Boak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Valley Local Area Command, Crime Manager</td>
<td>Detective Inspector Trent King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Valley Local Area Command, Crime Prevention Officer</td>
<td>Senior Constable Sheree Gray</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Business Chambers of the Cessnock LGA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Chambers of the Cessnock LGA</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cessnock Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Ian Mackie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurri Kurri Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Rod Doherty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branxton Greta Community Chamber</td>
<td>Michael Starkey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Stakeholder Organisations and Community Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Stakeholder Organisations and Community Groups</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kurri Kurri Towns with Heart Inc</td>
<td>Toby Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samaritans Information Neighbourhood Centre</td>
<td>Lesley Radnidge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth off the Streets</td>
<td>Jennifer Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)</td>
<td>Helena Hodgson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Safety Precinct Committee</td>
<td>Committee Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurri Kurri Community Centre</td>
<td>Lakin Agnew</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cessnock City Council Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service Coordinator</th>
<th>Will Doran</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreation and Community Facilities Coordinator</td>
<td>Nathan Eveleigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Services Manager</td>
<td>Janine McCarthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cessnock Performing Arts Centre Coordinator</td>
<td>Vicki Sienczuk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consultation Findings

To summaries, the consultation process yielded a number of positive findings. These findings were,

- Collaborative partnerships between Cessnock City Council and the two Police Commands that service the Cessnock Local Government Area had eventuated during both the development and implementation phase of the Plan. The importance of positive partnerships was noted, particularly the role of local Councils and Police working collaboratively on Crime Prevention projects. It was commented that it was important for this partnership to continue even with the finalisation of the Crime Prevention Plan.

- It was the opinion of some stakeholders that the incidence of Malicious Property Damage had reduced in the Cessnock Local Government Area when compared to the incidents of crime at the time of developing the Crime Prevention Plan. Please note, any improvement in crime incidences need to be considered from the perspective of not necessarily a sole outcome of the Crime Prevention Plan, but rather factors which may include, proactive policing, community responsibility and crime prevention initiatives implemented by other key stakeholders.

- Most stakeholders reported that they felt involved in the Crime Prevention Plan, whether this was its design and/or its delivery. Taking this theme further, most people felt their involvement to be worthwhile and most were satisfied at the level of communication regarding the Plan’s progress.

- The purpose of the Crime Prevention Plan was not only to reduce the incidence of Malicious Property Damage but also to increase community involvement in Crime Prevention. Consultations with stakeholders found that the Crime Prevention Plan performed particularly well in the area of community involvement. The Community education strategies were most evident when exemplifying community involvement. For example, it was commented that the education strategies assisted to encourage the community to be more actively involved in the prevention of crime by providing information on how to protect their properties and encouraged the reporting of crime to NSW Police (Action Strategy 6 & 7).

- The youth projects (Action Strategy 8) were praised by stakeholders for their success in being creative and innovative. Consultations with stakeholders found this strategy to be considered one of the more successful strategies in the plan. This Action Strategy also allowed great opportunity for a thorough evaluation to occur in respect to youth crime prevention programs and youth perceptions of crime. Furthermore, many stakeholders were pleased that Schools had been involved in the Youth Crime Prevention Strategy and felt this partnership should continue. The outcomes for the Youth Action Strategy are explained further on page 51.
The consultation process also highlighted limitations and identified action strategies which could have been delivered in a more improved way. They were,

- Stakeholders expressed disappointment that Council did not implement Closed Circuit Television in the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Central Business Districts. As per Action Strategy 4 of the Crime Prevention Plan, Council with the assistance of a Consultant did complete the Study for the Benefits, Limitations and Costs of Closed Circuit Television. Unfortunately, funding was not secured for the actual implementation of a Closed Circuit Television network.

- Action Strategy 5, a Tradeshows showcasing the latest security products, was commented as being disappointing. The patronage to the event was low with approximately 55 people attending. However, of the 55 people that attended, some did undertake security upgrades to their home and/or business with a reported $30,000 worth of products sold. While it showed some success, it is questionable whether it was a useful strategy in the prevention of crime given the low patronage and the considerable time it took to co-ordinate the event.

- Whilst overall the majority of stakeholders felt satisfied with their level of participation in the Crime Prevention Plan, a stakeholder expressed disappointment in not being more involved in the Youth Strategy (Action Strategy 8). More specifically, there was feedback that more local health and welfare service providers could have been invited to join the partnership for projects associated with the Youth Strategy. It was commented that future opportunities to join a Partnership could be promoted via, for example the local Youth Interagency.
SUSTAINABLE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable projects which were developed as a result of the Crime Prevention Plan, were considered to be extremely positive given they continue post the Plan’s expiration.

Two notable projects that resulted in the development and ratification of a sustainable Protocol were,

- ‘Community Hall Application Booking Form’ that enquires about alcohol and liquor licensing for events held in locally owned Council Halls. The application form also requires the hirer to inform the Local Area Command (Police) of the event. For an overview of the project please see page 31.

- A ‘Consultation Protocol for the Referral of Development Applications to the NSW Police by Cessnock City Council’ was implemented in October 2012. For an overview of the Protocol please see page 26.

Both Council and the Crime Management Unit from the Central Hunter Local Area Command collaboratively worked to design and implement the above projects. There was agreement from both Police and Council that projects involving protocol development were both positive and sustainable.

Other sustainable projects include,

- An outdoor activity trailer purchased by the Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service which aims to deliver youth activities to young people who reside within smaller townships of the Cessnock Local Government for example Millfield, Paxton, Ellalong, Greta and Branxton.

  In developing this project, there was acknowledgement that youth services were predominantly based in Cessnock and Kurri Kurri townships. To ensure social justice principles of equitable service delivery, a service that comes to young people’s local township is thought to be a positive step. For an overview of the project, please see page 52.

- As a result of a Community Safety Audit that took place in Rotary Park Kurri Kurri, Cessnock City Council installed a Public Reserve Offence sign within the park.

  It had been identified by the Central Hunter Local Area Command that people at times were consuming alcohol in the park. The signage provides education to the public regarding what activities are illegal and includes their subsequent penalty. The feedback from local Police is that the signage has assisted in the enforcement of Alcohol Prohibition in the park. For an overview of the project, please see page 31.

- With the Crime Prevention Plan endorsed by the Department of Attorney General and Justice, Council received $44,000 worth of grant funding to implement a project at Kurri Kurri Skate Park. The project aims to encourage natural surveillance by installing durable, crime resistant street furniture (seats), a vandal proof permanent shade structure, a vandal resistant water bubbler and solar lighting within Kurri Kurri Skate Park. For an overview of the project, please see page 60.

The Crime Prevention Plan resulted in five sustainable projects that continue to live post delivery of the Plan.
EVALUATION OF THE PLANS OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Performance Measures were listed within the Plan. The Performance Measures were linked to actual strategies and in total there were twenty seven. From an analysis of the listed Performance Measures, Council is confident that twenty six were fully achieved as listed within the Plan. The Performance Measures were ratified at the time of adopting the Plan in 2009 and as a result the remaining strategy performed better than expected.

The remaining Performance Measure that was only partially achieved was linked to Strategy 2, Education – Crime Prevention through Environmental Design. The aim of the Strategy was

‘Cessnock City Council Planning Department (now called Development Services) be provided with regular educational opportunities on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design’.

The reason for this performance measure diversion was a response to the in-house training sessions with Council Planning Staff, which highlighted the need to implement a more sustainable approach. This approach subsequently resulted in the development of a ‘Consultation Protocol for the Referral of Development Applications to the NSW Police by Cessnock City Council’. The Protocol is discussed in more detail later in the Report and can be located on page 26. The process of developing and ratifying the Protocol commenced in Year Two of the Plan, and after a twelve month planning process was implemented 2012.

EVALUATION OF EACH ACTION STRATEGY LISTED WITHIN THE CESSNOCK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

The Crime Prevention Action Plan, targeting the offence Malicious Property Damage lists in detail the eight Action Strategies. In evaluating the individual Action Strategies, consideration was given to the Plan’s broad aims and its intention at the time of designing the Plan.

Overall, it was hoped that an outcome of the eight individual Action Strategies would be a reduction in the level of Malicious Property Damage within either the Cessnock Local Government Area and/or the Central Business Districts of Cessnock and/or Kurri Kurri. Furthermore, it was also hoped that an outcome for many of the Action Strategies would be increased community awareness for how crime can be prevented and also how it can be reported.

The findings for each of the eight Action Strategies are detailed in Section Four.
Section Four – Analysis of Each Action Strategy
PREVENTION OF ALCOHOL RELATED MALICIOUS PROPERTY DAMAGE

Strategy 1: Increase Late Night Transport Options in the Cessnock Central Business District

Action

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.

Budget Proposed: $10,000          Actual Expenditure: $10,837.10

Funding Provided:

- $10,000 Cessnock City Council
- $837.10 Roads and Maritime Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Performance Measure Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Number of appropriate models identified.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As documented in the Study prepared by CHD Partners</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of grant applications made.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Evaluation of the effectiveness of the program (once identified) with a report to Council.</td>
<td>Reported to Council November 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategy Commenced: July 2009          Strategy Completed: June 2012

RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGY

This strategy had the aim of preventing situational crime for the offence Malicious Property Damage and was targeted to the Cessnock Central Business District. In an analysis of the data provided by NSW Police at the time of preparing the Crime Prevention Plan it was found that 33% of all recorded Malicious Property Damage offences for the Cessnock Local Government Area occurred within a radius of 1.5 kilometres from the centre of the Cessnock Central Business District (corner of Vincent Street and Cooper Street). Furthermore, a considerable portion of these crimes occurred on Friday and Saturday evenings. At the time of developing the Plan it was suggested that Malicious Property Damage may have a link to alcohol consumption and people leaving or transitioning between licensed premises. Given this, the objective of the strategy was to lessen the opportunity for late night pedestrian migration between the Cessnock Central Business District and the residential areas within the Cessnock township. The rationale for the strategy was that an increased provision of late night transport services could lessen the opportunity for alcohol related, anti-social behaviour and malicious property crime. In addition to increasing late night transport service provision, this strategy also sought to promote and encourage increased patronage on existing late night transport infrastructure.
STRATEGY OUTPUTS

Project: Late Night Transport Card

In partnership with the Roads and Maritime Service (formerly Road and Traffic Authority) a ‘Late Night Transport Card’ was developed. The transport card lists the contact details for late night transport services and includes late night licensed premises courtesy bus services and taxi providers within the townships of Cessnock and Kurri Kurri. The project was facilitated by Cessnock City Council and $837.10 of funding was provided by the Roads and Maritime Service for the purpose of printing expenditure. Council managed the project with the support of the Roads and Maritime Service and commenced project planning July 2009 with completion being March 2010.

In February 2010, 2000 Late Night Transport Cards were distributed with the support of the Cessnock Liquor Accord, licensed premises and local transport services listed within the free publication. The feedback from licensed establishments was that patrons welcomed the resource. The template for the publication was kindly provided by the Roads and Maritime Service.

Evaluation Outcomes of the Late Night Transport Card as at July 2012

In evaluating the project post implementation, the inventory of courtesy bus services had reduced. For instance, the Wentworth Hotel in Cessnock suffered extensive fire damage in April 2011 and as a result the building was later demolished. Earlier, the Cessnock City Bowling Club experienced the same situation and this fire occurred February 2010. However, with the printed transport cards already received into Council only days before the Cessnock City Bowling Club fire, representatives from the Club continued to be in support of the cards being circulated, despite the club no longer in operation.
Of the twelve late night transport services originally listed, eight remained as at July 2012. This inventory is less when compared to first commencing the project.

The challenge with projects that include paper based promotional material is the risk that they can become easily outdated. With this project and the unexpected fire at Cessnock City Bowling Club, the list of transport providers was already out of date at the time the Transport Cards were initially distributed. From the experience of delivering this project, the Transport Cards were a short lived project. To ensure accuracy, such project needs to be continually revisited so that correct information is communicated. As a result, the evaluation suggests that this project was likely to not have achieved a sustainable outcome.

Project: Research to Identify Local Late Night Transport Solutions for the Cessnock Central Business District

In April 2010, CHD Partners was appointed to undertake a research project to identify local late night transport solutions for the Cessnock Central Business District. As a result, a report was produced by CHD Partners and was titled ‘A study of Crime Prevention Solutions for Areas within the Cessnock Local Government Area’. The study brief was to reduce pedestrian traffic travelling from licensed premises to residential areas within the Central Cessnock area particularly on Friday and Saturday nights. The report also included researching Action Strategy 4 ‘A Study of Closed Circuit Television’. However, this component is discussed on page 34 of this document.

The recommendations from the CHD Partners research report is listed within the next table. A comment is provided regarding the outcome for each of the recommendations. In reviewing the recommendation findings, all six have been considered in some way and others have been implemented using methods which include community education, protocol development, community safety audits and key stakeholder engagement and networking.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Recommendations (Listed in Bold) and their Associated Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommend to the Community Safety Precinct Committee that representatives from the local security industry and taxis operators be included as members of the Committee</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cessnock Community Safety Precinct Committee has an open membership and taxi operators and local security industry services are encouraged to attend the meeting. Additionally, the Cessnock Liquor Accord, which includes both representatives from NSW Police and late night licensed premises have encouraged the Cessnock Taxi Co-operative to become a member of the Cessnock Liquor Accord Meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review the utilisation of existing late night Cessnock taxis ranks and deployment of taxis at these ranks on Friday and Saturday nights</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cessnock City Council consulted with representatives from the Cessnock Taxi Co-operative in December 2010 and again December 2011, encouraging a more extensive use of the already designated late night taxi rank in Vincent Street, Cessnock (South Precinct).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Improve the sharing of local information and intelligence between transport services and licensed premises, in particular those that operate on Friday and Saturday nights.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cessnock Liquor Accord is positively networking and sharing information amongst licensed premises. It would be a positive outcome if the Cessnock Taxi Co-operative was able to take the opportunity in becoming a member of the Cessnock Liquor Accord.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application of basic Crime Prevention through Environmental Design practices throughout the Cessnock LGA.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cessnock City Council and the two commands that services the Cessnock Local Government Area, namely the Central Hunter Local Area Command and the Hunter Valley Local Area Command have developed and implemented a referral process in assessing Development Applications from a Crime Prevention by Environmental Design perspective. This is discussed as part of the evaluation process for Action Strategy 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Given resources, NSW Police during the life of the Crime Prevention Plan have not been in a position to conduct a complete safety audit for the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD Areas. However, they have undertaken audits within the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri townships and have undertaken community safety audits for at least 10 Development Applications that have been before Council during the period, June 2009 to July 2012.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cessnock City Council review its Crime Prevention Plan for the strategy, ‘Deliver a Cessnock LGA wide media and community promotional campaign highlighting the need to report Malicious Property Crime’ and expand the campaign to include the reporting of all crime, not just malicious property damage.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Strategy 7 of the Cessnock Local Government Area – ‘Community Education Reporting Crime’ had its promotional material broadened to encourage the reporting of all incidents of crime.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STRATEGY OUTCOMES

In analysing 2011/12 NSW Police data, it was found that recorded Malicious Property Damage offences within a radius of 1.5 kilometres from the centre of the Cessnock Central Business District had considerably decreased when compared to the year 2008/09 (pre Crime Prevention Plan). For instance, at the conclusion of the Plan, 262 offences were recorded (2011/12) whereas pre Plan, 348 offences were recorded (2008/09).

As already mentioned a late night premises within the Cessnock Central Business District, ceased its operations due to fire damage in April 2011. In reviewing the crime data for the Cessnock Central Business District both pre fire and post fire, the crime data suggests a marginal decrease in malicious property damage offences one year post fire. For instance 286 offences were recorded one year prior to the fire (2009/10) and later, 262 offences were recorded one year post fire (2011/12). Given the results are minimal, it cannot be said either way if the cessation of a late night trading premises has assisted to reduce Malicious Property Damage within the Cessnock Central Business District.

The initial decrease and now three year stabilisation of Malicious Property Damage offences within the Cessnock Central Business District is likely not to be the result of the project outputs associated with this action strategy alone, but more attributed to the policing practices undertaken by the Central Hunter Local Area Command. The Central Hunter Local Area Command Licensing Section has continued its positive partnership with stakeholders such as the Cessnock Liquor Accord and has implemented locally, state wide policy change. For instance, in consulting with the Command as part of the review process for the Crime Prevention Plan, the following policing strategies were identified,

- In June 2010, the Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing introduced the ‘Scheme to Regulate Licensed Premises with High Levels of Assault Incidents’. The scheme was introduced in response to the high incidence of assaults within licensed premises and has the ability to place licensing restrictions on premises that are declared as high risk. With the introduction of this scheme, a marginal decline for Malicious Property offences within the Cessnock Central Business District was recorded for the 2010/2011 financial year (235 offences) when compared to 2009/10 (286 offences).

- Intelligence led policing principles has assisted to deliver continued targeted and proactive policing. As a result, Police have increased their presence in areas that tend to record higher crime rates and this extends to areas within the Cessnock Central Business District.

- Continued engagement and support, with for example key stakeholders for example, the Cessnock Liquor Accord. The Liquor Accord provides a forum for Licensing Police to engage with Licensees, which include late night traders. This well established partnership has resulted in a forum where positive exchange of information occurs along with an opportunity to deliver education to licensees.

FUTURE CRIME PREVENTION PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS FOR THIS STRATEGY

The review process has highlighted opportunities for Council if to engage further in the field of Crime Prevention Planning. These include,

- Any future Crime Prevention Planning undertaken by Council should include both policy development and opportunities for sustaining and/or strengthening stakeholder partnerships.
• Council should ensure that it takes into consideration the late night transport implications for any Development Application that seeks approval for a late night licensed venue.

• Ensure that alcohol free zones are regularly reviewed and updated, particularly in Central Business Districts. Such strategy will assist in the policing of high risk areas.

Please Note: At the time of developing the Crime Prevention Plan, four year Alcohol Free Zones were already installed and this occurred late 2008. The Alcohol Free Zones are due to expire post the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan, hence, its omission from the Plan.
CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Strategy 2: Education – Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

**Action**

The Cessnock City Council Planning Department (now called Development Services) be provided with regular educational opportunities on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.

---

**Performance Measures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Performance Measure Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Two Staff per annum to receive formal training in Crime Prevention by Environmental Design Principles</td>
<td>1 staff received training on two occasions in year 2 of the Plan (2010/2011).</td>
<td>Partial Achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This same staff member also attended a four day course during 2012.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of in-service training sessions undertaken within Council</td>
<td>5 staff attended in-service training</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategy Commenced:** July 2009  **Strategy Completed:** October 2012

**RATIONAL FOR THE STRATEGY**

The rational for the strategy was to prevent situational crime by educating Council Staff on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles. It was decided that educating council planning staff on the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design was an effective way to assist in the prevention of crime.

**STRATEGY OUTPUTS**

**Project:** Development of a Referral Protocol between Cessnock City Council and NSW Police

In February 2011 an internal training program was undertaken at Cessnock City Council and involved 5 Council Planning staff. The outcome of the training was an identified need for Council Staff to have better referral networks with local Police in the assessment of Development Applications. In order to formalise this referral link, it was decided that a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design referral process needed to be drafted.

In response to this, consultations with the Central Hunter Local Area Command and the Hunter Valley Area Local Area Command took place from February 2011. The purpose of the consultation process was to consider the types of developments that would require a referral to Police as part of the development application assessment process.
The Protocol that was eventually developed was titled ‘Consultation Protocol for the Referral of Development Applications to the NSW Police by Cessnock City Council’. The protocol was implemented September 2012 and was facilitated by the Development Services Manager for Cessnock City Council.

Above (Extract) Consultation Protocol for the referral of development applications to the NSW Police Force by Cessnock City Council (2012).

Project: Educating Council Staff in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

Within this Action Strategy, a Performance Measure was for ‘two Staff per annum to receive formal training in Crime Prevention by Environmental Design Principles’. In reviewing this Action Strategy what eventuated was,

- A Crime Prevention by Environmental Design course attended by Council’s Community Planning Co-ordinator in November 2010 (Year 2 of the Plan) and January 2011 (Year 2 of the Plan).

- In February 2011 (Year 2 of the Plan) an internal training program was undertaken at Cessnock City Council and involved 5 Council Planning staff. The training program was undertaken by CHD Partners. As already mentioned, this is the training course where the referral process was initially suggested.
• A four day, Safer by Design Course, facilitated by NSW Police was attended by a staff member in October 2012.

| TOTAL TRAINING COURSE ATTENDED BY STAFF | 4 |
| NUMBER OF COUNCIL STAFF WHO PARTICIPATED IN TRAINING | 6 |

STRATEGY OUTCOMES

Although this Action Strategy did not meet in full the prescribed performance measures as listed in the Crime Prevention Plan (Two Staff per annum to receive formal training in Crime Prevention by Environmental Design Principles) the development of a Referral Protocol was a more sustainable outcome.

It was positive that the internal Council Staff Training Program for Crime Prevention by Environmental Design identified a need for improved communication with key stakeholders, namely NSW Police. The Referral Protocol is considered to have achieved an outcome of sustainable and long-term impact in the prevention of crime. The partnership that formed between Council and NSW Police in developing the Referral Protocol was positive.

FUTURE CRIME PREVENTION PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS FOR THIS STRATEGY

The review process has highlighted opportunities for Council if to engage further in the field of Crime Prevention Planning. This being,

• If Council were to initiate another Crime Prevention Plan, sustainable protocol and/or policy development should be a priority due to its long term effectiveness in attempting to reduce crime.
CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES (CONTINUED)

Strategy 3: Community Safety Audits

Action
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 Central Business District Areas.

Budget Proposed: $2,000  Actual Expenditure: $6,000
Funding Provided: $6,000  Department of Justice and Attorney

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Performance Measure Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Completion of Community Safety Audit for the Cessnock CBD area with recommendations outlined.</td>
<td>Community Safety Audit undertaken in 2009.</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Safety Audit for targeted areas completed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Completion of Community Safety Audit for the Kurri Kurri CBD area with recommendations outlined</td>
<td>Safety Audit undertaken as part of Action Strategy 1 and 4.</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The number of recommendations that were worked towards and achieved</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategy Commenced: July 2009  Strategy Completed: June 2012

RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGY
The rational for the strategy was that Community Safety Audits can assist in recognising unsafe areas and can subsequently determine suitable crime prevention treatment options. The Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Business District areas were both identified as target areas given their incidence of crime in comparison to the wider Cessnock Local Government Area.

STRATEGY OUTPUTS
Project: Community Safety Audits for Crime Hotspot Locations within the Cessnock Local Government Area

Cessnock City Council has had a long standing partnership with NSW Police in undertaking Community Safety Audits. In reference to the Crime Prevention Plan, the following Community Safety Audits were undertaken:
• As part of the development phase for the Crime Prevention Plan, a Community Safety Audit of the Cessnock Central Business District was undertaken in late 2008 by the Central Hunter Local Area Command (NSW Police).

• The Crime Prevention Officer (Central Hunter Local Area Command and Hunter Valley Local Area Command) undertook a number of Community Safety Audits associated with the assessment of Development Applications throughout the life of the Crime Prevention Plan. These include for example, late trading fast food premises, liquor retailers and large scale temporary events.

• Community Safety Audits were undertaken in the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Central Business Districts as part of the research for the late night transport options (Action Strategy 1) and the CCTV strategy (Action Strategy 4). These audits occurred between April 2010 and September 2010.

• A Community Safety audit of a public space in Kurri Kurri was undertaken by the Central Hunter Local Area Command in June 2012. The audit was in response to a community group who were considering a local crime prevention project.

In response to the above Community Safety Audits, the following crime prevention treatment recommendations were actioned:

• Improved lighting for Turner Park, Cessnock
• Installation of Alcohol Prohibited Signage for Rotary Park, Kurri Kurri
• Development and implementation of Community Hall Application Protocol

Lighting improvements for Turner Park, Cessnock

Following a safety audit of Turner Park, Cessnock a funding application was submitted to the Department of Attorney General and Justice for improved lighting. As a result of this grant application, Cessnock City Council was awarded a small, partial funding amount of $6,000. The $6,000 was used to improve lighting near to the Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service, Turner Park, Cessnock.
Installation of Alcohol Prohibited Signage for Rotary Park, Kurri Kurri

As a result of a Community Safety Audit that took place in Rotary Park Kurri Kurri, Cessnock City Council installed a Public Reserve Offence sign in the park. It had been identified by the Central Hunter Local Area Command that people at times were consuming alcohol in the park. The signage provides education to the public regarding what activities are illegal and includes their subsequent penalty. The feedback from local Police is that the signage has assisted in the enforcement of alcohol prohibition in the park and as a consequence has been a successful, sustainable project.

Project: Community Halls Protocol – Application for Use of Community Facilities

Cessnock City Council, in partnership with the Crime Co-ordinator, Central Hunter Local Area Command developed as part of this Action Strategy, a Community Halls Application Protocol. The Protocol which is applicable when booking a Council owned Community Hall, was implemented mid 2012 after a twelve month planning process.

The purpose of the Protocol was to enable information exchange between Cessnock City Council and NSW Police regarding the types of events scheduled to occur in Council owned Community Halls. Furthermore, the Application Protocol educates a process to the person who wishes to book a Council owned Community Hall.

Prior to the Protocol, it had been the case that Police were unaware of the type of events taking place in Community Halls and some were occurring without appropriate liquor licensing and without security arrangements. Subsequently, some events had resulted in safety issues and anti-social behaviour near to the Hall, impacting on neighbouring residences. As a result, the Community Halls Protocol informs hall hirers of the need to adopt security arrangements, assesses and educates liquor licensing requirements and determines whether a registration on the ‘My Nite’ website is required.

The Application Protocol also triggers instances where the applicant is required to communicate with Police the details for the event. In enabling improved information exchange between local Police and
Council, the Application Protocol outlines how the hirer must inform Police of the event and this includes the form being witnessed and stamped by a Police Officer at a local Police Station. The Application is then copied at the Police Station and is forwarded to the Crime Co-ordinator for policing purposes. The hirer is informed that the final approval for a booking rests with Cessnock City Council.

An extract only of the Application Protocol is displayed below. A complete copy of the Form is available on Council’s website, [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)
The Form asks questions regarding alcohol and security arrangements (Extract Only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will alcohol be sold at the function?*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will alcohol be served at the function?*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will alcohol be brought into the facility by guests?*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has security been hired for the function?*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Form must be sighted and stamped by NSW Police (Extract Only)

NSW POLICE USE ONLY
Sighted by Station Officer: ____________________________
Date: ______/____/____
This form is to be stamped, copied and forwarded to the Crime Coordinators Office.

STRATEGY OUTCOMES

The outputs for this Action Strategy met all Performance Measures listed within the Crime Prevention Plan.

The funding received from the Attorney General and Justice Department was expended and delivered as per the funding agreement.

The signage for the Rotary Park, Kurri Kurri that outlined the list of offences, including alcohol prohibition was installed in a timely manner. Police have voiced positive comments about the signage and advise it has been of considerable assistance in policing the park.

Similar to the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Referral Protocol, the Community Halls Application Protocol is a sustainable response to the prevention of crime in and near to Community Halls. The Community Halls Application Protocol has received positive feedback and anecdotally has assisted to deter high risk events and/or have in place better security measures for high risk events. Since the implementation of the Community Hall Application Protocol, Council has received minimal complaints from residents in respect to anti-social behaviour associated with events held at local Community Halls.

From all accounts, this Action Strategy has been a success.

FUTURE CRIME PREVENTION PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS FOR THIS STRATEGY

The review process has highlighted opportunities for Council if to engage further in the field of Crime Prevention Planning. This being,

- The continuation of a partnership between NSW Police and Cessnock City Council in undertaking Community Safety Audits as required.
CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

Strategy 4: Study of Closed Circuit Television

**Action**

Study to occur regarding the benefits, limitations and costs of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) within the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri CBD Areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Performance Measure Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Application to the Australian Government Attorney General’s Department for the</td>
<td>Funding application unsuccessful</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>funding of CCTV.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Report to Council regarding the Outcomes of the Study.</td>
<td>Reported to Council November 2010 and April 2011</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Decision to be made regarding the effectiveness of CCTV for the Cessnock and</td>
<td>Four options for CCTV implementation were presented to</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurri Kurri CBD Areas.</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Actions to be implemented as per the recommendation of the council</td>
<td>All resolutions adopted by Council were actioned.</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Budget Proposed:** $10,000  **Actual Expenditure:** $10,000

**Funding Provided:** $10,000  **Cessnock City Council**

**Strategy Commenced:** July 2009  **Strategy Completed:** June 2012

**RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGY**

The aim of the strategy was to reduce the incidence of Malicious Property Damage within the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Central Business Districts. NSW Police data reflected that 43% of all recorded Malicious Property Damage offences for the Cessnock Local Government Area occurred within these two Central Business District areas.

At the time of drafting the Crime Prevention Plan, Council received a petition with over 200 signatures that sought the installation of CCTV in the Cessnock Central Business District. With the community advocacy for CCTV at the time of drafting the Plan, it was important to explore CCTV and its application to the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Central Business Districts. Given this, the objective of the strategy was to first provide Council with information regarding the benefits, limitations and costs of CCTV specific to these two local business areas.
STRATEGY OUTPUTS

Project: Application to the Australian Government Attorney General’s Department

In February 2009, while the Crime Prevention Plan and its strategies were still in the development stage, an opportunity arose to apply for funding via the Australian Government Attorney General’s Department. The funding that was applied for was $264,439 and it was requested that twelve CCTV Cameras be installed in the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Central Business Districts. The outcome of the application was announced September 2009 and was unsuccessful due to a competitive funding round.

Project: Study Regarding the Benefits, Limitations and Costs of CCTV within the Areas of Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Central Business Districts.

In July 2010, CHD partners commenced the study regarding the benefits, limitations and costs of CCTV within areas of the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Central Business Districts. The research was documented in a report and recommended (if CCTV was to proceed) a staged approach for the installation of a CCTV network. The report also considered monitoring options and associated costs.

The findings from the report suggested that CCTV alone cannot reduce crime. However it identified that CCTV can be an effective tool when monitored by well-trained operators who have the resources to manage occurring or escalating incidents.
STRATEGY OUTCOMES

The study undertaken by CHD partners was reported to council on the 3 November 2010. The report to Council suggested four options and listed the associated budget for each. Council, at its meeting resolved to:


2. The Council consider for funding, assisting pedestrians to leave the CBD on Late night occasions and funding for improved lighting.

3. Given the cost Council enquire as to whether businesses in either Kurri Kurri or Cessnock would be prepared to contribute to any future CCTV.

On the 6 April 2011, a response was presented to Council. The report noted that although there was considerable interest from the local business community to install a CCTV system, the local business community was not able to assist with financial support. Given this, CCTV was then considered as part of Council’s 2011/2012 budget process, however funding was not able to be secured for the project. Funding was also not secured for Resolution 2, namely ‘Council consider for funding, assisting pedestrians to leave the CBD on Late night occasions and funding for improved lighting’.
COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SAFETY

Strategy 5: Tradeshow Showcasing Latest Security Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Performance Measure Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Attendees</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Exhibitors</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative feedback from the Chambers of Commerce within the Cessnock Local Government Area</td>
<td>Undertaken</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative feedback from the exhibitors regarding attendee’s level of interest</td>
<td>Undertaken</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Budget Proposed: $10,000          Actual Expenditure: $5,558.11
Funding Provided: $5,581          Cessnock City Council

Strategy Commenced: July 2009      Strategy Completed: June 2010

RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGY

This strategy was developed given an enthusiasm from the local businesses community to assist in sharing the responsibility for the prevention of crime. At the time of preparing the Crime Prevention Plan in 2008/09, the business community expressed an interest in learning how they can assist to make their premises more secure from crime. Given this expressed interest in wanting to learn more about crime prevention, a tradeshow concept was developed primarily for the purpose of targeting the business community. The event was promoted as a Security and Safety Exhibition.

STRATEGY OUTPUTS

Project: Security and Safety Exhibition

The Security and Safety Exhibition was held in a local licensed club auditorium on the 26 May 2010.

The free event was promoted one month prior and the main promotional tool used was both a hardcopy and electronic pamphlet. A copy of the pamphlet is featured overleaf.
In terms of promoting the event, the flyer was distributed using the following methods,

- Both electronic and hardcopy flyers were distributed to the five Business Chambers within the Cessnock Local Government Area. The Chambers were encouraged to circulate the flyer amongst their membership and networks.

- Distribution via Australia Post to 19,968 residential and commercial premises and was included in the mail out associated with Action Strategy 6.

- Email circulation to 150 external community service providers listed on the Cessnock City Council Community Directory.

- Hand delivery of flyers by Council Officer’s to commercial properties located within the Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Branxton and Greta Central Business District areas.

- Issuing of a media release and subsequent publishing in two local papers and notification on the Cessnock City Council website.

The day commenced with a one hour invitational launch and included an educational session from Crime Prevention Consultant, Mr Michael Huggett of CHD Partners. In addition to offering crime prevention strategies, the session also highlighted the under reporting of crime, the value of crime reporting and consequently encouraged people to report crime.

In total, there were 18 businesses represented on the day, promoting a range of products to the business community and residents. In total, 55 people attended the event and it was reported by exhibitors that they had received a total of 12 requests for quotes. One exhibitor reported three months post the tradeshow that they had alone yielded approximately $30,000 worth of business
from the event. Another vendor advised that they had made contact with a supplier on the day and together they were in discussions regarding an amalgamation of their companies.

Despite the considerable promotions that occurred for the event, the patronage to the tradeshow with only 55 people was considered to be poor by Council Officers, a Local Business Chamber and the exhibitors.

**STRATEGY OUTCOMES**

In terms of a crime prevention strategy, this project is considered to have resulted in low success in comparison to all other strategies documented within the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan.

If this strategy was to be repeated, it would need to be carefully considered. For instance on review, it is noted that the event was promoted locally only, meaning within the Cessnock Local Government Area. To make such an event work better, in hindsight it may have yielded a better response to advertise the event to the regional business community, for instance the inclusion of Maitland, Singleton, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens. In taking this approach however an increased budget would be required for a regional marketing strategy.

**FUTURE CRIME PREVENTION PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS FOR THIS STRATEGY**

The review process has highlighted opportunities for Council, if to engage further in the field of Crime Prevention Planning. This includes,

- When considering community crime prevention projects, it is important to carefully consider the size of the target group, how best the target group can be engaged and the budget that would be required to best tap into the target group. For Council, this may include looking both within and beyond the boundaries of the Cessnock Local Government Area.
COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SAFETY

Strategy 6: Education Campaign – Protecting Properties

Action

Deliver a Cessnock Local Government Area wide promotional educational program targeted to the householder and business owner which aims to protect property, including vehicles and rural stock from Malicious Property Damage.

Budget Proposed: $15,000    Actual Expenditure: $13,338.28
Funding Provided: $13,338.28    Cessnock City Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Performance Measure Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Evaluation of range and effectiveness of resources</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Qualitative feedback from residents of the Cessnock Local Government Area regarding its effectiveness</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategy Commenced: July 2009    Strategy Completed: May 2010

RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGY

This strategy aimed to deliver wide reaching crime prevention education to both local residents and occupants of commercial businesses that operate within the Cessnock Local Government Area. The rationale for this strategy’s inclusion within the Crime Prevention Plan was that the consultation process highlighted people had an interest in the prevention of crime. People during the consultation process were actively asking for strategies that they themselves could use in the prevention of crime to their homes and vehicles.

STRATEGY OUTPUTS

Project: Household and Commercial Property – Crime Prevention Mail Out

In undertaking a desktop search of the available community crime prevention literature, suitable promotional material was found on the NSW Police website. NSW Police kindly provided permission for Cessnock City Council, the Central Hunter Local Area Command and the Hunter Valley Local Area Command to reproduce the brochure for distribution within the community. It was essential to ensure both homeowners and occupants of rental properties all received a crime prevention education message. Hence, the project resulted in an un-addressed household mail out, advising of Crime Prevention Safety tips. The strategies included free simple suggestions and some required a small cost to implement.

In trying to think strategically and in considering costs, this strategy was incorporated with two other strategies, namely Action Strategy Five, ‘Tradeshow Showcasing Latest Security Products’ and Action Strategy Seven, ‘Community Education and Reporting Crime’. As a result, the mail out included three documents. Namely,
• A covering letter advising of the project and jointly signed by (at that time) the General Manager for Cessnock City Council and the Local Area Commander’s for Central Hunter and Hunter Valley Police (as below).

• The NSW Police Crime Prevention Brochure (fold out style), printed on high quality, durable cardboard paper. The brochure provided crime prevention strategies for both residential and commercial properties and also considered the prevention of vehicle theft (as seen on page 42).

• A promotional flyer advising of crime prevention Action Strategy Five, ‘Tradeshow Showcasing Latest Security Products’. It must be noted, that the promotional flyer for the tradeshow event was under the sole auspice of Cessnock City Council.

In terms of the delivery of the strategy, the mail out was strategically sent to commercial properties and households the week of the 10 May 2010, two and a half weeks before the tradeshow event. Given the sheer volume of the mail out, the administration component was outsourced and was undertaken by a local disability employment service, purchased at a fee.

The total circulation was 19,968 households and commercial premises. Of these,

• 18,266 were delivered to properties located within the Central Hunter Local Area Command.

• 1,702 were delivered to properties within the Hunter Valley Local Area Command

The Householder
Cessnock Local Government Area

Dear Resident

CRIME PREVENTION BROCHURE

Cessnock City Council and the NSW Police are working together to deliver a range of community projects that aim to further reduce crime in the Cessnock Local Government Area.

One such project is to provide residents with education and advice on how to protect property and/or businesses from crime. Enclosed is a brochure designed by NSW Police which provides useful tips on how you can help to reduce crime offences to your property and/or business. The brochure also includes a list of important telephone numbers for you to use when reporting crime.

In addition, Cessnock City Council has started implementing its three year Crime Prevention Plan. Council intends to work closely with the community to deliver a range of projects which aim to reduce malicious damage in the Cessnock Local Government Area. Council is committed to reducing crime within the Cessnock Local Government Area and has allocated $67,500.00 towards crime prevention projects. For further information on the strategies that Council intends to use as part of its three year Crime Prevention Plan, please contact Council’s Social Planner on 4963 4300.

Cessnock City Council and NSW Police hope that the enclosed brochure helps you to understand more about how you can help protect your property from crime.

Yours faithfully,

B R MORTMORE
GENERAL MANAGER
CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL

SUPPERINTENDANT GRIFFIN
CENTRAL HUNTER LOCAL AREA COMMAND

SUPPERINTENDANT ORGAN
HUNTER VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMAND

April 2010
STRATEGY OUTCOMES

In terms of project costs, a mass community education program is deemed to have been cost effective given the project cost a mere $0.66 per household or commercial property.

On the whole, the project received positive feedback, with comments that the brochure provided simple tips for protecting properties. There was however feedback received into Council advising that some people within the Cessnock Local Government Area did not receive a mail out package. In these circumstances, it is unclear whether the resident discarded the unaddressed mail item or whether a delivery did not occur. In responding to this, a media release was distributed advising people that if they did not receive the package they should make contact with Cessnock City Council. Only four enquiries were received into Council.

In trying to understand the success and/or limitations of this strategy, data from the Bureau of Crime, Statistics and Research was consulted. The data shows that reports for Malicious Property offences, increased considerably the immediate two months preceding the delivery of the strategy. The chart overleaf also suggests that for a further two months after the mentioned rise, the reports for Malicious
Property offences continued to remain stable. However, this levelled off in October; four months post the delivery of the project.

**Reported Malicious Property Crime and its Relationship to Community Education Strategies**

Given this result, it is possible that in the short term, the community education initiative may have resulted positively in increasing the number of reports for Malicious Property Damage. However, the long term sustainability of such initiatives is questionable. In terms of the effectiveness of a mass community, crime prevention education initiatives, this strategy should also be considered in conjunction with the findings from Action Strategy Seven – ‘Community Education Reporting Crime’.

**FUTURE CRIME PREVENTION PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS FOR THIS STRATEGY**

The review process has highlighted opportunities for Council, if to engage further in the field of Crime Prevention Planning. This includes,

- The continuation of a strategic approach in both the design and delivery of crime prevention projects including consideration as to how projects can be integrated.
COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SAFETY

Strategy 7: Education Campaign – Reporting Crime

**Action**

Deliver a Cessnock Local Government Area wide media and community promotional campaign highlighting the need to report Malicious Property Crime.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Performance Measure Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Deliver 4 media campaigns per annum.</td>
<td>4 per annum</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Qualitative feedback from residents of the Cessnock Local Government Area regarding its effectiveness.</td>
<td>Undertaken throughout</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of different promotional mediums.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Qualitative feedback from the community regarding media campaigns.</td>
<td>Undertaken throughout</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Review of NSW Police data and Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research data for incidence of Malicious Property Damage.</td>
<td>Undertaken annually</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategy Commenced:** July 2009  
**Strategy Completed:** June 2012

**RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGY**

The aim of the strategy was to deliver crime prevention education material that encourages the reporting of crime to both local residents and occupants of commercial businesses. The rationale for the inclusion of this strategy within the Plan was due to a common consultation finding suggesting that crime offences were under reported. There was community concern that the true incidence of crime was missing from the available crime data, and as a result the community was missing out on opportunities such as government grant funding for crime prevention projects and increased policing allocations to the two Commands that service the Cessnock Local Government Area. The under reporting of crime is documented by Don Weatherbourne (2011, Crime and Justice Bulletin, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, page 4) and sites research from the National Victim Survey (conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the financial year 2009/2010) which advises that only 46.8% of offences for Malicious Property Damage is reported.

**STRATEGY OUTPUTS**

**Project:** Community Education Reporting Crime – Year One of the Crime Prevention Plan (2009/10)

- In actioning this strategy, there was opportunity to effectively integrate with ‘Action Strategy Six, ‘Education Campaign – Protecting Properties’. For example, the NSW Police Crime Prevention Brochure which was sent to residential and commercial properties as part of the
household mail out, included a handy cut off section that listed contact telephone numbers for the reporting of crime. As such, the joint letter from Cessnock City Council and the Central Hunter Local Area Command, NSW Police (which formed part of the mail out) made reference to the brochures' list of crime reporting telephone numbers. As previously mentioned, the mail out was sent to 19,968 household and commercial premises.

- The Cessnock City Mayors column which is printed within local papers, regularly reported on a range of crime prevention initiatives occurring as part of the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan. The column highlighted that as a community, all people have a role to play in the prevention of crime.

- As part of the ‘Tradeshow - Showcasing Latest Security Products’ (Action Strategy Five) attendees were informed of the need to report crime and the need to achieve more accurate data for crime incidences within the Cessnock Local Government Area. The education session was delivered by Crime Prevention Consultancy firm; CHD Partners and was attended by 55 people.

Project: Community Education Reporting Crime – Year Two of the Crime Prevention Plan (2010/11)

Cessnock City Council, the Central Hunter Local Area Command, the Hunter Valley Local Area Command and the Victims of Crime Assistance League worked in partnership to develop a local promotional material that aimed to encourage the reporting of crime. The project planning and development commenced November 2010 and was completed June 2011. The distribution of the product occurred between July 2011 and October 2011.

In total, 5,700 copies of the crime prevention education material were circulated. The medium for distribution was an A5 high gloss fridge magnet and was circulated to local community groups, the print media and was distributed at local community events. A sample is displayed below and its distribution is outlined overleaf.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Project Output</th>
<th>Number Distributed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2011</td>
<td>Distribution of ‘Report all Incidents of Crime’ A5 Fridge Magnet within the Cessnock Local Government Area.</td>
<td>1,000 copies circulated amongst 181 community groups. Of the 181 groups, 157 were located within the Central Hunter Local Area Command; the remaining 24 were located within Hunter Valley Local Area Command.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The fridge magnet was provided to community groups and each group was provided four copies and were encouraged to distribute amongst their networks.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2011</td>
<td>Samaritans Family Day Care requested copies for the purpose of providing to their registered family day care providers.</td>
<td>50 copies provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2011</td>
<td>Hunter Valley Domestic Violence and Advocacy Service requested copies to place in their promotional show bags for distribution at a local ‘Reclaim The Night’ event.</td>
<td>250 copies provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL CIRCULATION</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,700 COPIES</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project:** Community Education Reporting Crime – Year Three of the Crime Prevention Plan (2011/12)

In drafting the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan in 2008/09, the Central Hunter Local Area Command acknowledged that the Police Crime Prevention Officer position, has a role in educating Crime Prevention strategies, including encouraging the reporting of crime.

The NSW Police, Central Hunter Local Area Command in particular the Crime Prevention Officer role has been instrumental in delivering a number of key local education sessions. Additionally, the Cessnock Chamber of Commerce has also taken the initiative to organise and deliver to its members and the wider business community, education regarding the prevention of crime. In summary, these interventions are listed on the following page.
Organised and Delivered by Central Hunter Local Area Command Crime Prevention Officer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Number Attended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2012 &amp; August 2012</td>
<td>The Crime Prevention Officer for the Central Hunter Local Area Command, conducted crime prevention education sessions with older persons in both Cessnock and Kurri Kurri. A reporting crime message was included in the session.</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>The Crime Prevention Officer role for the Central Hunter Local Area Command has written for a number of years, a policing column for the Cessnock Advertiser (local newspaper). The column informs the community about crime incidence and offers a crime prevention message. An extract is featured below.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2012</td>
<td>Armed Robbery Training was undertaken with business owners from the Cessnock Local Government Area. The Cessnock Liquor Accord organised and promoted the training to its membership. The training was held June 2012.</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Extract kindly provided by Cessnock Advertiser, (edition) Wednesday 15 August 2012**

---

**Woman Forced With Drink Driving**

On Sunday afternoon a woman was allegedly forced to drink against her will and became disoriented. She then fell asleep on the driver's seat of a vehicle. The driver proceeded to home, a 4-year-old child was left in the vehicle. The driver and the child were later found, and the driver was charged with drink driving and allowing the child to remain unattended. The driver was charged with drink driving and allowing the child to remain unattended.

**Off Beat By Constable Karl Boek**

Local police have arrested a man for attempted murder. The man was charged with killing his ex-partner in a fit of rage. The couple had been involved in a domestic dispute, during which the man allegedly attacked his ex-partner with a hammer.

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**Police are Investigating**

Police are investigating a break-in at a local business. The business owner reported that several electronic devices were stolen, including a laptop and a printer. The investigation is ongoing, and anyone with information is urged to contact the local police station.

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**Man Charged with Assault**

A 25-year-old local man has been charged with assaulting a student at a local high school. The student was reportedly attacked by the man while trying to prevent him from entering the school.

---

**Off-Beat by Constable Karl Boek**

Local police have warned residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activities. They have received several reports of attempted break-ins in the area, and are urging residents to secure their homes and property.

---

**Woman Forced With Drink Driving**

On Sunday afternoon a woman was allegedly forced to drink against her will and became disoriented. She then fell asleep on the driver's seat of a vehicle. The driver proceeded to home, a 4-year-old child was left in the vehicle. The driver and the child were later found, and the driver was charged with drink driving and allowing the child to remain unattended. The driver was charged with drink driving and allowing the child to remain unattended.
**Organised and Delivered by Cessnock Chamber of Commerce**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Number Attended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 2012</td>
<td>The Cessnock Chamber of Commerce facilitated a Forum with the business community, seeking to understand their concerns regarding crime occurrences and impacts for small business.</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>The Cessnock Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Central Hunter Local Area Command facilitated an education session providing strategies for armed robbery prevention. The presentation was delivered by Detective Inspector Michael Banfield (State Crime Command; Robbery and Serious Crime Squad).</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STRATEGY OUTCOMES**

This strategy aimed to deliver crime prevention education material that encouraged the reporting of crime to both local residents and occupants of commercial businesses that operate within the Cessnock Local Government Area. The findings suggest that this strategy was delivered in an efficient manner, particularly with key stakeholders themselves facilitating a range of crime prevention projects.

In evaluating the 'Report all Incidents of Crime' project (Year 2 of the Plan), the crime data as supplied by the Bureau of Crime, Statistics and Research reflects that in the immediate month post the distribution of the promotional material (July 2011), crime reports rose sharply.

This can be seen in the chart on the next page.
Given this result, it is possible that this project may have resulted positively in increasing the number of reports for Malicious Property Damage in the short term. However, the long term sustainability of such initiative is questionable. What is interesting however is that Action Strategy Six also yielded a similar outcome in terms of increased recorded Malicious Property Damage in the immediate months post the delivery of a local community education message that also encouraged crime reporting. However, in both instances the number of recorded offences levelled off between two and four months post the delivery of each project.

In exploring further this finding, representatives from NSW Police were consulted regarding the delivery of both Action Strategy Six and Seven and the immediate increase for Malicious Property Damage offences post project intervention. After an analysis by NSW Police representatives, no plausible explanation for this rise in crime was able to be provided, other to say many diverse incidents across the Cessnock Local Government Area had been reported post delivery for each community project. NSW Police also advised that methods of recording crime had not changed, hence potential methodology changes in the recording of Malicious Property Damage was not applicable to this situation and hence is ruled out.

On the whole, the findings from this Action Strategy, combined with the findings from Action Strategy Six, have highlighted that the community education programs delivered as part of the Crime Prevention Plan may have resulted in people having an increased interest in the reporting of crime incidences. However, it would seem the effect is short lived and as a result the crime data over a calendar year is still likely to reflect a considerable under reporting of crime.

However, it must be remembered that this Action Strategy was initially designed to advocate for increased allocation of policing resources to the Commands that service the Cessnock Local Government Area. In evaluating this strategy, in addition to encouraging the community to report incidents of crime, a combination of strategies is therefore recommended. For instance, it would have
been preferential to complement the projects listed in association with this Action Strategy with an additional project that sought to advocate via formal submissions (at the State level) increased police allocations to the Commands that service the Cessnock Local Government Area.

On the whole however, the findings for this Action Strategy suggest the projects have been a success.

**FUTURE CRIME PREVENTION PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS FOR THIS STRATEGY**

The review process has highlighted opportunities for Council, if to engage further in the field of Crime Prevention Planning. This includes,

- The implementation of a more sustainable approach in advocating for increased policing resources. For instance this could include opportunities to contribute to and/or facilitate the writing of a submission which advocates for increased policing resources. Such advocacy should be undertaken in partnership with the wider community, including local peak business associations.

- The value of developing and implementing projects using a partnership model must be recognised and encouraged. A partnership model is of great assistance in increasing networking and hence can further add value to a project. This concept of value adding, whereby community capacity building is strengthened can ultimately assist in the success of a project.
WORKING WITH YOUTH

Strategy 8: Targeted Youth Crime Prevention Strategies

Action
Provide youth with crime prevention education and deliver activities that lessen boredom and allows for increased participation within the community.

Budget Proposed: $45,000  Actual Expenditure: $84,629
Funding Provided:
- $39,629 Cessnock City Council
- $1,000 Samaritans
- $3,000 Rover Motors (In Kind)
- $44,000 Attorney General and Justice Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Performance Measure Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Number of youth programs offered</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Attendance numbers at youth events</td>
<td>Smart Choices: 418 April’s Fool 1,065</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Evaluative feedback from service providers</td>
<td>Teacher Surveys</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Evaluative feedback from young people</td>
<td>Smart Choices Program Evaluation</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April’s Fool Program Evaluation</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategy Commenced: July 2009  Strategy Completed: June 2012

RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGY

It was felt necessary to include a strategy within the Crime Prevention Plan that had a direct focus on youth. At the time of drafting the Plan, data provided by the Central Hunter Local Area Command, NSW Police showed the age group 14 years to 21 years, as being responsible for committing the greatest number of Malicious Property Damage offences.

Given this knowledge, it was felt important to engage young people in crime prevention at an early age, before crime offences start to peak. As such, the aim of the strategy was to engage young people in crime prevention education and deliver strategies that foster youth engagement across the Cessnock Local Government Area.
STRATEGY OUTPUTS

Project: CYCOS Outdoor Activity Trailer

To ensure that all youth within the Cessnock Local Government Area have an opportunity to engage with Council’s youth service, the ‘Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service’ identified a need for an outdoor activity trailer.

An outdoor activity trailer provides the Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service with greater scope to deliver youth activities to young people who reside within smaller townships of the Cessnock Local Government for example Millfield, Paxton, Ellalong, Greta and Branxton. There was acknowledgement that youth services were predominantly based in Cessnock and Kurri Kurri townships and to ensure social justice principles for equitable service delivery, a service that comes to young people’s local township was considered to be a positive step.

With funding allocated as part of the Crime Prevention Plan, an outdoor activity trailer was purchased by the Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service in 2009/10. To date, the trailer has been used for numerous outreach activities and community youth events. The trailer is fitted out with fun activities that aim to engage young people and also has a generator for activities that require power, for example play station games.

The photo below is the trailer being used for a NAIDOC week event at Kurri Kurri Rotary Park, July 2012.
Project: ‘Smart Choices’ Youth Crime Prevention Education Program

‘Smart Choices’, a youth crime prevention education program designed by Cessnock City Council, Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service and the Central Hunter Local Area Command, is based on the premise that an early intervention approach can provide young people with the necessary tools to reduce their involvement in risky behaviours. In response, ‘Smart Choices’ was designed to engage and interact with students on a range of topics. These topics are listed in the below flow chart and are explained further in the next table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Program Overview</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drugs and Alcohol</td>
<td>Students engage in conversation and learning on the effects and consequences of alcohol and drug use for both themselves and the community. Assertiveness skills in refusing alcohol and drugs are discussed in the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risky Behaviours</td>
<td>Students are addressed by clients from ‘Headstart’. The students hear an account from the clients of ‘Headstart’ which includes how they acquired their brain injury and how the choices one makes can greatly affect ones future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptable Behaviours</td>
<td>Students engage in education and discussion regarding acceptable behaviours when in shared public space. The session includes an overview of the Youth Offenders Act and includes a discussion on the negative impact of property theft and malicious property damage. Crime offences which include cyber bullying, illegal trail bike riding and steal-by-find are also discussed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Building</td>
<td>This is an interactive team building activity that encourages social connections within the peer group as well as team work.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To explain further, ‘Smart Choices’, was a six hour, one day education program delivered predominantly to year 7 students at each of the local high schools within the Cessnock Local Government Area. The program was delivered between March 2010 and May 2011 and the schedule was as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary School</th>
<th>Students Attended</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cessnock High School</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>16 March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Phillips Christian College Cessnock Campus</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>26 May 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(note: included both year 7 and 8 students)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount View High School</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>26 October 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurri Kurri High School</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>16 May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>418</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Above: Senior Constable Michael Steele presenting the session, Acceptable Behaviours.

**Smart Choices Program Evaluation**

In evaluating the ‘Smart Choices’ program, a pre and post program quantitative evaluation form was administered. The University of Newcastle’s commercial entity, Newcastle Innovation Newstat assisted with the design of both the pre and post program survey tool. The pre-program survey tool was administered to students on the morning of the program and captured data regarding student’s knowledge of the harms associated with alcohol and illegal drug use and perceptions of violence and safety. This survey contained ten questions.

The post-program evaluation survey tool was administered immediately after the program and included questions similar to the pre program survey. Additional questions were also asked that sought to understand levels of perceived knowledge and skills learnt upon course completion and also sought to determine levels of satisfaction with the program. This survey asked twenty three questions, including a repeat of the same ten questions asked within the pre survey tool.
The below is an extract of a question asked in both the pre and post survey tool. Students were required to place a mark anywhere on the line that they thought best represented their thoughts of the question. On the printed survey that was distributed to students, the line was ten centimetres long. Hence for survey coding, a ruler measured to one decimal point the response as indicated by a mark on the line. These results were entered into an excel spreadsheet whereby statistical analysis later occurred to determine program outcomes.

![Sample Question](image)

With the support of the University of Newcastle’s commercial entity, Newcastle innovation Newstat, statistical analysis occurred. For reasons not known, some students who attended the program did not complete a pre and/or post program survey, hence the discrepancy within the below table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participating Schools</th>
<th>Actual Attendance</th>
<th>Pre Program Evaluation Survey Completed</th>
<th>Post Program Evaluation Survey Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cessnock High School</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Phillips Christian College</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount View High School</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurri Kurri High School</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>418</strong></td>
<td><strong>405</strong></td>
<td><strong>404</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In analysing the results, post-program 74% of students felt more able to say no to drugs and alcohol upon completing the course. Many of the students (72%) believed it important to learn about crime prevention at school and most students (91.5%) felt they had learnt something from the program. Furthermore, students had a better understanding of the young offenders act upon course completion and also had a better understanding that riding an unregistered trail bike is illegal in both public bushland and on public roads. However, an analysis of the pre and post survey results found that for some students they left the program confused about the dangers and implications of alcohol and drug use.

In March 2011, after successfully running the program with already three high schools, ‘Smart Choices’ was presented at a national Australian Institute of Criminology Conference held in Melbourne, ‘Young people, risk and resilience: The challenge of alcohol, drugs and violence’. The paper was titled ‘Smart Choices: an early intervention initiative between NSW Police and Cessnock City Council’.
Project: April’s Fool (written by David Burton): Theatre Performance

Given the success of Smart Choices in terms of young people expressing positive engagement with crime prevention education, consideration was given to the application of theatre for the purpose of educating young people on the dangers associated with risky behaviours.

From the evaluation process for Smart Choices, an analysis of the pre and post survey results found that for some students they left the program confused about the dangers and implications of alcohol and drug use. Given this finding, the organising group namely Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service, Cessnock City Council, Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, Central Hunter Local Area Command (NSW Police) and Samaritans Information Neighbourhood Centre Cessnock decided to purchase a theatre production that educated the risks associated with drug and alcohol consumption.

With the assistance of the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, ‘April’s Fool’ (written by David Burton) a theatre production based on the true story of Toowoomba teenager Kristjan Terauds was purchased. Kristjan died of complications related to illicit drug use. The script was created from interviews with Kristjan’s family and friends and debuted as a theatre performance in Australia during 2010.

The co-ordination and engagement with schools in having students attend the theatre production began eight months prior to the actual performance. The production was held at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre and funding was made available to purchase the play via the Crime Prevention Plan. Funding support was also kindly provided by the Samaritans Information Neighbourhood Centre Cessnock, along with Rover Coaches who provided bus transport free for students.

Due to the complexity of issues that formed the basis of the production, students from years 9, 10, 11 and 12 from all four high schools were invited to attend. Of the four high schools in the Cessnock Local Government Area, three schools participated in the program. Parents of students were also encouraged to attend the performance, and the permission note advised that parents could preview the performance the same week that their child was to attend. It was also suggested to parents that their attendance could assist them in terms of being a tool to talk with their child about the dangers of alcohol and drug use.

The April’s Fool parent session was held on the 9 May 2012 at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre. Around 150 people attended the parent session. The performances targeted at the school children were held on the 10 and 11 May 2012. In total, 1065 students, teachers and parents attended an April’s Fool performance.
April’s Fool Evaluation

The evaluation of April’s Fool was similar to the format used to evaluate the ‘Smart Choices’ program. For example it used the same scale whereby the students were required to place a mark anywhere on the line that they thought best represented their thoughts of the question. Please note: in the instance of April’s Fool only a post-evaluation survey was administered to students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participating School</th>
<th>Evaluation Forms Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cessnock High School</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount View High School</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurri Kurri High School</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Not Identified</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>163</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Given that pens were not permitted in the theatre itself, it was asked that evaluation surveys be distributed by the school post production. Unfortunately this method resulted in a large number of surveys not being returned. However from the results of the evaluation forms that were returned (n=163), the feedback regarding the performance was positive. Most young people commented that they enjoyed the performance and said that they learned something from it.
Findings from April’s Fool

The findings from April's Fool were,

• 93% of students said they would recommend April's Fool to other school students.

• Overall, students generally thought the play was easy to understand and really liked that the play was held away from school.

• The question, 'Since watching April's Fool, I feel more able to say no to drugs and alcohol', around two thirds of the student cohort rated a score between maybe and agree.

• Most young people agreed with the question that when a young person uses drugs it has an impact on their family and friends. Interestingly, students rated the impact on friends slightly higher, in comparison to the impact on their family.

Comparison of Smart Choices and April’s Fool as a Crime Prevention Tool

In trying to compare Smart Choices and April's Fool from the perspective of being an effective tool for educating young people on crime prevention, there were six correlating questions that were asked in both the Smart Choices post program survey and the April's Fool post program survey.

These six correlating questions were,

• I liked that the program was held away from school
• It is important to learn about crime prevention at School
• I know more of the range of Youth Services that exist in the local area.
• I feel safe in the community I live in
• I have a better understanding of how illegal drugs can be harmful
• I feel more able to say no to illegal drugs and alcohol

Overall, the comparative findings for all six correlating questions found that for each, Smart Choices had slightly better learning outcomes in terms of educating and engaging young people in crime prevention. Furthermore, 91.5% of students said that they learned something from the Smart Choices Program, while 72% of students said that they learned something from April's Fool. For both programs, students agreed that it was important to learn out crime prevention at school.

On the whole, both programs were engaging and the evaluation findings suggest each was effective. However of the two, ‘Smart Choices’ had a more strengthened link to crime prevention.
Project: Youth Pilot Graffiti Removal Project -Juvenile Justice

This project was delivered in partnership with Juvenile Justice and Cessnock City Council and sought to involve young people (who had committed a crime) in the removal of graffiti within the Kurri Kurri locality.

Project Outcomes

The project, administered by Juvenile Justice with the support of Cessnock City Council took place between April 2011 and June 2011. Overall, thirty hours of graffiti removal work was undertaken by young people. In total, 54 young people participated in the program. All graffiti was removed via the use of paint and six months post the program, it was observed that the occurrence of graffiti had lessened at the four locations chosen for clean up. At the conclusion of the pilot program, Juvenile Justice expressed interest in working further with Council on projects that required one-off, considerable graffiti removal.
The objective of the project was to implement Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Principles within Kurri Kurri Skate Park (Margaret Johns Park). The Cessnock City Council Skate and BMX Facilities Needs Assessment (undertaken by an external consultant, for Cessnock City Council in 2012) estimated that 52.65% of young people aged 5 to 14 years and 8.1% of young people aged 15-24 years were likely to access a skate park.

With this knowledge and given the Cessnock City Council Crime Prevention Plan had been endorsed by the Department of Justice and Attorney General, Council made an application for funding to implement priority crime prevention projects within Kurri Kurri Skate Park. In February 2013, Council was notified that it was successful in being allocated $44,000 worth of grant funding to implement a project that aims to encourage natural surveillance by installing infrastructure that promotes increased visitations to the recently upgraded, Kurri Kurri Skate Park. The infrastructure that is proposed to be installed at the park is durable, crime resistant street furniture (seats), a vandal proof permanent shade structure, a vandal resistant water bubbler and solar lighting.

Through the installation of the above infrastructure, the Park will increase its ability to further engage young people and their parents/guardians. The hardy material used to make the street furniture, vandal proof shade structure, water bubbler and solar lighting will assist to minimise graffiti and malicious property damage within the Skate Park. Consequently, if the Skate Park can be preserved and maximised as a pleasant place to visit, more people are likely to access the location and this will assist to promote values of community pride and community ownership. It is hoped that the infrastructure associated with the grant will increase further visitations to the park and as a consequence, enhance the natural surveillance of youth related assets.

Please Note: The funding announcement was made February 2013. Hence, at the time of drafting this report, actual outcomes for this strategy had not yet been determined.

STRATEGY OUTCOMES

Overall, the Youth Strategy has been extremely positive and there has been many worthy pilot projects which eventuated. Much of the success of the Youth Strategy is due to the positive partnerships formed between Central Hunter Local Area Command (NSW Police), Cessnock City Council and Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service. This partnership has been instrumental in the design, co-ordination and delivery of much of the programs that have occurred as part of this strategy.

Of the five projects that were delivered as part of this strategy, the enhancements to Kurri Kurri Skate Park and the youth trailer are considered to be the most sustainable given they are infrastructure projects. The Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service recently purchased a vehicle and this will assist greatly in wider use of the outdoors activity trailer.

The youth crime prevention community education programs although very successful, now need to be considered from the perspective of can aspects of the program still be delivered with minimal budget. For instance, much of the funding to deliver both Smart Choices and April’s Fool came from the Crime Prevention Plan. With the Plan now complete and the funds expended, innovative ways need to be considered if for example, Smart Choices is to continue.
With the conversations associated with the approval process for the Graffiti Removal Pilot Project, considerable knowledge was learnt in regards to best practice in delivering volunteer based crime prevention partnership projects. For example, considerable knowledge was learnt in respect to risk assessments and public liability and supervision requirements for volunteers working on Council owned assets. This organisational knowledge was most helpful and was later transferred to a local Rotary Club who participated in the inaugural ‘2012 Rotary Clean up Graffiti Day’ which included graffiti removal for Council owned assets.

The youth strategy has been recognised for its initiatives. As already mentioned, Smart Choices was presented at a national Australian Institute of Criminology Conference held in Melbourne March 2011. Furthermore, in November 2012, ‘April’s Fool’, was awarded an Arts and Cultural Award from the Local Government and Shires Association. The award was for the category ‘Participation in the Arts, Performing Arts’.

FUTURE CRIME PREVENTION PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS FOR THIS STRATEGY

The review process has highlighted opportunities for Council, if to engage further in the field of Crime Prevention Planning. This includes,

- Given the success of this strategy, all future Crime Prevention Plans should consider the inclusion of a strategy that has a direct focus on young people.

- Given the success of ‘Smart Choices’ consideration needs to be given as to whether this crime prevention education program can continue to be delivered at minimal cost.

- Due to the positive feedback received from students and parents regarding the April’s Fool theatre based performance, consideration to be given as to the application of other performance opportunities that have a link to the prevention of youth related harm.
Section Five – Overall Findings and Conclusion
CONCLUSION

To conclude, the review process has found the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan to have been well actioned and delivered in accordance with the strategies listed within. Overall, the community consultation findings highlighted genuine satisfaction with the range of programs that were delivered in relation to the Plan.

Much of the success of the Crime Prevention Plan can be attributed to the successful partnerships that have eventuated as a result of actioning numerous crime prevention projects. A notable partnership evident from the review process and deemed to be integral to the success of the Crime Prevention Plan was that of the Central Hunter Local Area Command, in particular the Crime Management Unit and Cessnock City Council. It is noted that the Crime Management Unit had significant involvement in most of the action strategies and assisted to ensure sustainable projects eventuated from the Crime Prevention Plan.

BUDGET

The funding allocated by Cessnock City Council has assisted immensely to ensure that the Crime Prevention Plan was actioned in the way it was intended. At the time of drafting the Crime Prevention Plan in 2008/09, the expected budget required from Council to action the Plan was $120,000. Council as part of its budget commitment made available the full funding; however with partnership growth, external funding and sponsorship opportunities along with the strategic delivery of projects, the actual expenditure in delivering the Crime Prevention Plan using Council funding was less than expected and was $92,150.39. In terms of a performance measure for budget expenditure, the Crime Prevention Plan was delivered on budget and in fact cost Council $27,849.61 less than was originally envisaged.

The full breadth of funding sources, are illustrated in the below table. In total, the Crime Prevention Plan attracted $146,987.49 worth of funding. Please note: the $50,000 worth of grant funds provided by the Department of Attorney General and Justice was not budgeted, nor expected at the time of drafting the Plan in 2008/09.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Body</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cessnock City Council</td>
<td>$92,150.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Attorney General and Justice</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads and Maritime Service</td>
<td>$837.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samaritans Information Neighbourhood Centre</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rover Coaches (in-kind)</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$146,987.49</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

In reviewing the 27 Performance Measures listed in the Crime Prevention Plan, 26 were fully achieved. It is noted that the remaining Performance Measure which was partially achieved changed focus midway through the Plan. However, what resulted was a more sustainable project and involved the ratification of a ‘Consultation Protocol for the Referral of Development Applications to the NSW Police by Cessnock City Council’. This change in focus was deemed to be a much more superior
outcome then was initially envisaged four years ago when the Plan was drafted. In fact, the development of the Protocol was one of many highlights of the Crime Prevention Plan. This is due to the Protocol having a sustainable outcome and also re-confirms the role and value of partnerships in planning for the prevention of crime.

The table below provides a summary of the performance measures in reference to each Action Strategy, as listed within the Crime Prevention Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Strategy</th>
<th>Number of Performance Measures Listed in Crime Prevention Plan</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
<th>Partially Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce pedestrian traffic travelling from licensed premises to residential areas within the Central Cessnock area particularly on Friday and Saturday nights</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cessnock City Council City Planning Department (now Development Services) be provided with regular educational opportunities on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undertake a study regarding the benefits, limitations and costs of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) within the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Business Districts.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A tradeshow be offered to showcase safety products specific to the business sector and to be held within the Cessnock LGA.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliver a LGA wide media and community promotional campaign highlighting the need to report Malicious Property Damage crime.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliver targeted youth crime prevention strategies which aim to promote increased participation within the community and lessen boredom.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Project Outputs – Crime Prevention Plan Highlights**

The Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan has achieved many project outputs. They are listed and analysed within the Study, however to summaries they include:

- Development of the ‘Community Hall Application Booking Form’. The Booking Form enquires about alcohol and liquor licensing for events proposed to be held in locally owned Council Halls. The application form also requires the hirer to inform the Local Area Command (NSW Police) of the event.

- Development of a ‘Consultation Protocol for the Referral of Development Applications to the NSW Police by Cessnock City Council’.

- An outdoor activity trailer was purchased by the Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service. The activity trailer aims to deliver youth activities to young people who reside within smaller townships of the Cessnock Local Government for example Millfield, Paxton, Ellalong, Greta and Branxton.

- As a result of a Community Safety Audit for Rotary Park Kurri Kurri, Cessnock City Council installed a Public Reserve Offence sign within the park.

- In partnership with the Roads and Maritime Service (formerly Road and Traffic Authority) a ‘Late Night Transport Card’ was developed. The transport card lists the contact details for late night transport services and includes late night licensed premises courtesy bus services and taxi providers within the townships of Cessnock and Kurri Kurri.

- The study components for the Crime Prevention Plan were completed and presented to Council November 2010 and April 2011. The aim of the Study was twofold and included strategies for reducing pedestrian traffic travelling from licensed premises to residential areas within the Central Cessnock area particularly on Friday and Saturday nights. Secondly, it included researching the benefits, limitations and costs of Closed Circuit Television for the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Central Business Districts.

- Following a safety audit of Turner Park, Cessnock a funding application was submitted to the Department of Attorney General and Justice for improved lighting. As a result of this grant application, Cessnock City Council was awarded a small, partial funding amount of $6,000. The $6,000 was used to improve lighting near to the Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service, Turner Park, Cessnock.

- A Security and Safety Exhibition was held in a local licensed club auditorium on the 26 May 2010 and was attended by 55 people.

- The NSW Police Crime Prevention Brochure was sent to 19,968 households and commercial premises within the Cessnock Local Government Area. The Brochure educated residents on how to protect their property and the importance of reporting crime.

- 5,700 copies of the ‘Reporting Crime’ high gloss fridge magnet were circulated to local community groups and via the print media.
• ‘Smart Choices’, a youth crime prevention education program designed by Cessnock City Council, Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service and the Central Hunter Local Area Command (NSW Police), was rolled out to 418 students across the four high schools within the Cessnock Local Government Area.

• In March 2011, after successfully running the program with local high schools, ‘Smart Choices’ was presented at a national Australian Institute of Criminology Conference held in Melbourne, ‘Young people, risk and resilience: The challenge of alcohol, drugs and violence’. The paper was titled ‘Smart Choices: an early intervention initiative between NSW Police and Cessnock City Council’.

• April’s Fool, (written by David Burton) was delivered to high schools within the Cessnock Local Government Area. The theatre performance had a focus on the dangers of alcohol and illicit drug use. In total, 1,065 students, teachers and parents attended an April’s Fool performance. In November 2012, ‘April’s Fool’, was awarded an Arts and Cultural Award from the Local Government and Shires Association. The award was for the category ‘Participation in the Arts, Performing Arts’.

• A pilot project was delivered in partnership with Juvenile Justice and Cessnock City Council and sought to involve young people (who had committed a crime) in the removal of graffiti at designated locations within Kurri Kurri.

• With the Crime Prevention Plan endorsed by the Department of Justice and Attorney General, Council recently received $44,000 worth of grant funding to implement a project at Margaret Johns Park, Kurri Kurri (Skate Park area). The project aims to encourage natural surveillance by installing durable, crime resistant street furniture (seats), a vandal proof permanent shade structure, a vandal resistant water bubbler and solar lighting within the Skate Park area. Given the funding was announced February 2013 the project is in the process of being implemented.

Council’s Current Role in Crime Prevention Planning

Despite the completion of the Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan (2009-2012), Council continues to participate in a number of crime prevention initiatives. For instance, Council is involved in the following networking opportunities,

• Member the Crime Prevention Partnership Meeting. This meeting is chaired by the Local Area Commander, Central Hunter Local Area Command.

• Member and venue host for the Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting. This meeting is chaired by the Local Area Commander, Central Hunter Local Area Command.

• Member of the Cessnock Liquor Accord.

In respect to crime prevention planning projects, Council at the conclusion of the Evaluation Study was working on the following initiatives,

• Drafting a Development Control Plan that considers Social Impacts, including Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles.
• Discussing with stakeholders the possibility of delivering further ‘Smart Choices’ crime prevention youth programs within schools. The working party (Cessnock City Council, Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service and Central Hunter Local Area Command) is in the process of pursuing funding opportunities for the continuation of Smart Choices.

• As opportunities come along, Council will continue to work in partnership with local businesses, non-government organisations and community groups to deliver local crime prevention initiatives.

**FINAL COMMENTS**

The Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan (2009-2012) has delivered many worthy, successful projects with some of these continuing at the Plan’s conclusion. From the consultation process, the findings suggest that key community stakeholders value the role of Council in undertaking crime prevention planning initiatives.

Given the success of the Plan, key stakeholders commented that they would like to see Council continue its role in Crime Prevention planning and this includes drafting and subsequently adopting a new Crime Prevention Plan. Furthermore, the review of the Crime Prevention Plan has not only allowed for an assessment as to its success and limitations, but has also assisted to gather information on future directions if to develop a new Plan. To conclude, these recommendations for any future Crime Prevention Plan includes,

• If Council were to initiate another Crime Prevention Plan, sustainable protocol and/or policy development should be a priority due to its long term effectiveness in attempting to reduce crime.

• The continuation of a strategic approach in both the design and delivery of crime prevention projects including consideration as to how community crime prevention projects can be integrated.

• Ensure opportunities are maximised that aim to sustain and/or strengthen stakeholder partnerships. This for example includes in particular the continuation of a partnership between NSW Police and Cessnock City Council.

• Council continuing its participation in crime prevention forums, for example the Cessnock Community Safety Precinct Committee, the Central Hunter Crime Prevention Partnership and Cessnock Liquor Accord.

• At the time of developing the Crime Prevention Plan, four year Alcohol Free Zones within the Cessnock Local Government Area had just been implemented. Alcohol Free Zones assist in the policing of high risk areas, particularly where alcohol is being consumed in public places. Given this, it is important to ensure that Alcohol Free Zones are regularly reviewed and updated, particularly in Central Business Districts.

• When considering community crime prevention projects, it is important to carefully consider the size of the target group, how best the target group can be engaged and the budget that would be required to best tap into the target group. For Council, this may include looking both within and beyond the boundaries of the Cessnock Local Government Area.
Given the success of the youth strategy, any future Crime Prevention Plan should include a strategy that has a direct focus on young people. For instance, with the success of ‘Smart Choices’ consideration needs to be given as to whether this crime prevention education program can be included within any new Crime Prevention Plan. Secondly, due to the positive feedback received from students and parents regarding the April’s Fool theatre based performance, consideration to be given as to the application of other performance opportunities that have a link to the prevention of youth related crime.
REFERENCE

Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan (2009-2012)
