

## ITEM 19 POLICY REVIEW: CRIME PREVENTION

Wollongong City Council's Crime Prevention Policy adopted on 25 November 2013 is now due for review. This report is the result of the current policy review completed in September 2017.

### RECOMMENDATION

Council adopt the Crime Prevention Council Policy.

### REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Sue Savage, Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development (Acting)  
Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Engaged City (Acting)

### ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Crime Prevention Policy

### BACKGROUND

The current Crime Prevention Policy was adopted on 25 November 2013. The policy provides a framework for Council's role in crime prevention to enhance community safety for the residents of the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). The policy outlines our strategic approaches used to improve community safety and also refers to the role of Council's Community Safety Reference Group.

The strategic approaches Council uses to prevent crime and improve community safety include:

- 1 Situational crime prevention, which makes crime more difficult to commit and less rewarding. Its focus is on making the physical environment look and feel appealing, encouraging high visitation and activation. It minimises the opportunities for crime to occur and increases the risk of being caught to the offender.
- 2 Social strategies, which are designed to improve the underlying social conditions that can lead to crime. Crime is a complex social problem closely related to unemployment, substance abuse and family and community breakdown. Council uses a community development approach to build community capacity and resilience. It works with all three levels of government, families, individuals and community organisations in a partnership approach.

Specifically the community development strategies include:

- Developing community partnerships to implement the Community Safety Plan 2016-2020.
- Working with the Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence and the Community Drug Action Team.
- Assessment, monitoring, planning and maintenance of Alcohol Free zones and Alcohol Prohibited Zones (seven major locations across the LGA).
- Developing projects that improve safety for vulnerable communities. An example is the Women's Safety Project to reduce harassment and threatening behaviour of women visiting or working in Wollongong's City Centre.
- Conducting Community Safety Audits of public spaces as requested by residents, businesses and other Council divisions.
- Coordination and resourcing of Council's Community Safety Reference Group.
- Providing advice on development assessments in regards to community safety issues including Liquor Licence applications.
- Conducting community safety research to understand factors which increase or decrease safety in the community. For example, conducting Perceptions of Safety Surveys to assess how safe or

unsafe residents feel in the City Centre and in suburbs where they live and the reasons why they feel this way.

- Maintain current crime statistics.

## PROPOSAL

The draft Crime Prevention Policy 2017 be adopted by Council.

## CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Community Safety Reference Group of Council, with representatives from Wollongong Local Area Command and Lake Illawarra Area Command, have been informed of the policy review and invited to provide feedback.

The Crime Prevention Policy is the overarching Policy that supports the Community Safety Plan. The Community Safety Plan 2016-2020 was adopted in August 2016 following a period of public exhibition and community consultation. The Community Safety Plan 2016-2020 forms the basis of Council's approach and statement of procedures for the Crime Prevention Policy.

## PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Wollongong 2022 goal 5 "We are healthy community in a liveable city". It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2012-2017	Annual Plan 2017-18
Strategy	5 Year Action	Annual Deliverables
5.4.1 Partnerships continue to strengthen and achieve a safe accessible community.	5.4.1.1 Facilitate a range of partnerships and networks to develop community safety initiatives.	Contribute to a range of community based initiatives in conjunction with partner organisations and volunteers.
5.4.2 Local crime continues to be prevented and levels of crime reduced.	5.4.2.1 Continue to liaise with Local Area Commands on key initiatives and crime reduction strategies.	Monitor and maintain Alcohol Free Zones including new assessments as required.
5.4.3 Safety is considered in the planning and design of any development.	5.4.3.1 Safety is considered in the planning and design of any development.	Provide Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) advice in Development Assessments.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Community Safety Program is delivered by the Community Safety Officer. A project allocation is included in the 2017-18 Budget of \$5,000 in addition to the Community Safety Officer salary.

## CONCLUSION

The Crime Prevention Policy provides guidance for Council, key stakeholders, community partners and residents on Council's position regarding strategies and support for a safe community.



ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: [TO BE COMPLETED BY CORP SUPPORT]

## BACKGROUND

Responsibility for a safe community does not reside with any one particular agency or body. It is the responsibility of the community as a whole. While Council is not solely responsible for crime prevention it is well placed to assist the community to address issues of concern. It is close to the community and can influence many of the factors which determine how people live. Therefore Council has a central leadership role to play in bringing together, identifying and driving the development of specific strategies to improve and enhance community safety.

It is important to note that Council's role does not involve the provision of law enforcement. Some Council Officers may be involved in regulation compliance but this is not to be confused with a law enforcement role. Law enforcement remains the responsibility of the NSW Police and other law enforcement agencies.

## OBJECTIVE

To provide a framework for Council's role in crime prevention to enhance community safety for the residents of the Wollongong LGA.

## POLICY STATEMENT

Wollongong City Council participates in the prevention of crime and the creation of a safe community through two key strategic approaches:

1. Situational Crime Prevention

Situational crime prevention makes crime more difficult to commit and less rewarding. It is used to enhance the physical environment and help improve how safe people feel. Situational crime prevention minimises opportunities for crime to occur and increases the risk of being caught to the offender. Examples of situational crime prevention include trimming trees to create clear sightlines, cleaning off graffiti, providing additional lighting, planting green screening to prevent graffiti, planting trees to enhance the look and feel of a place, organising activities to encourage higher visitation, and incorporating structures such as public art to attract people to an area. The term Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is used when implementing principles to reduce opportunities for crime to occur, this can also be referred to as First Generation CPTED principles.

2. Social Strategies

Social Strategies are designed to improve underlying social conditions such as income; access to housing; employment opportunities; education and training; leisure and recreational opportunities; and available community services. Improving these underlying social conditions helps to prevent crime from occurring and thus contribute to enhanced community safety. It works through strengthening communities and social infrastructure. It involves all three levels of government, families, individuals and community organisations in a partnership approach. It recognises that crime is a complex social problem that is closely related to unemployment, substance abuse and family breakdown. These approaches that look beyond the built environment are also referred to as Second Generation CPTED principles.

## POLICY REVIEW AND VARIATION

- 1 Council is to have opportunity to review and adopt, at least once during its Term, each Council policy.
- 2 A resolution of Council is required to adopt any variations to this policy, with the exception of minor administrative changes, such as updates to legislative references, which may be endorsed by the Executive Management Committee (EMC). Endorsement of administrative changes made to this policy by EMC does not alter the requirement for it to be reviewed and adopted by each Term of Council.

## CRIME PREVENTION

## COUNCIL POLICY

### STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES

1. Wollongong City Council will approach crime prevention and the development of safe communities through the operations of its Community Safety Reference Group. Recognising however that crime prevention and creating a safe community does not rest alone with the Community Safety Reference Group but is a whole of Council responsibility.
2. The Community Safety Officer will use a community development approach to address issues of crime prevention.
3. The Community Safety Reference Group will work in partnership with the NSW Police; Local, State and Federal government agencies; non-government agencies; and the community to:
  - Develop and implement short and long term strategies that broadly encompass the key strategic approaches of situational and social crime prevention so that people will feel safe in Wollongong.
  - Identify and analyse the extent of crime and community concern about safety in Wollongong.
  - Encourage the development of policies by Local Government and other appropriate authorities on crime prevention through the provision of information, best practice, and analysis so that agencies can operate in a consistent manner with consistent information. This will ensure that there is policy interaction and support between agencies.
  - Identify and analyse issues raised by the community and other groups, using crime statistics provided by police and information sharing between agencies, to assist those communities and groups with the provision of skills, knowledge and resources to participate in making Wollongong a safer place. Make recommendations and regular representations to local, state and federal governments on ongoing issues of community safety. These recommendations and representations should be based on information, analysis and identification of issues of ongoing concern in the Wollongong LGA and should support both the key strategic approaches of situational and social crime prevention.
4. The Community Safety Reference Group should be consulted by all Divisions of Council regarding crime prevention and community safety, particularly in the relation to the use of public space.
5. Wollongong City Council and the Community Safety Reference Group will not endorse any security product or service.

CRIME PREVENTION

COUNCIL POLICY

SUMMARY SHEET	
Responsible Division	Community Cultural and Economic Development Division
Date adopted by Council	[To be inserted by Corporate Governance]
Date of previous adoptions	25 November 2013; 21 February 2000
Date of next review	November 2020
Responsible Manager	Community Safety Officer
Authorised by	Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development

DRAFT