Acknowledgement of Country

Wollongong City Council would like to show their respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land, Elders past and present, and to extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acronym Table</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary of Community Safety Plan</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Setting</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aim and Objectives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement and Communications</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What you told us</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What have we been doing over the last four years?</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving Forward: the next four years</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do the LGA crime rankings mean?</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime Prevention Action Plan</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPENDICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 1: Crime Profile</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 2: Demographic Profile</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Acronym Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>Australian Bureau of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADF</td>
<td>Australian Drug Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFZ</td>
<td>Alcohol Free Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASB</td>
<td>Anti-Social Behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOCSAR</td>
<td>Bureau Of Crime Statistics And Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>Central Business District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTV</td>
<td>Closed Circuit Television</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAT</td>
<td>Community Drug Action Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPTED</td>
<td>Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>Development Application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLBTI</td>
<td>Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transexual, Intersex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICADV</td>
<td>Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>Local Area Command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGA</td>
<td>Local Government Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGSCCPN</td>
<td>Local Government Community Safety Crime Prevention Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIDOC</td>
<td>National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAL</td>
<td>Police Assistance Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMS</td>
<td>Roads and Maritime Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEIFA</td>
<td>Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Executive Summary

The Wollongong Community Safety Plan 2016–2020 is a key instrument to support the vision of the city outlined in Wollongong 2022. It contributes to creating and sustaining a healthy community in a liveable city, with the objective: “Community Safety is Improved” (Wollongong 2022: Community Strategic Plan).

The Community Safety Plan is developed using data from government sources as well as local crime intelligence and information from residents, in an effort to target the crimes and behaviours that have the biggest impact on the local community. Consultations have occurred with internal and external stakeholders and partners as well as the community at large.

Perceptions of safety is included in the data as fear of crime and perception of safety impacts how well Wollongong residents engage and feel connected to one another.

HOW TO READ THIS PLAN

The Community Safety Plan 2016-2020 is divided into two distinct sections:

**SECTION 1**
Contextualises the Plan, providing information on how Wollongong City Council approaches crime prevention and improves community safety. It describes our current and continuing partners and how we have engaged them, as well as the community, in defining crime and safety issues. It reviews the actions taken over the last four years and the results of those actions and strategies to improve safety and reduce targeted crimes.

**SECTION 2**
Describes what crimes and behaviours will be targeted over the coming four years, from 2016 to 2020. The Crime Prevention Action Plan sits within this section and shows the strategies that will be implemented to address each crime as well as the rationale in choosing specific crimes and behaviours on which to focus.

Perceived and actual community safety is included within the Crime Prevention Action Plan because how safe the community feels has a significant effect on people’s quality of life and wellbeing. Demographic and crime profiles are included in this section showing who lives in our area, where the crime hotspots are located and provides a snapshot of what crimes are impacting the community the most.
### Summary of Community Safety Plan

The actions in the Community Safety Plan 2016-2020 aim to reduce crime and improve community safety. It takes a whole of Council approach and includes support from partners and the community.

The priority crimes that are the focus of the Community Safety Plan 2016-2020 have been chosen based on issues and concerns highlighted by the community as well as crime trends in the Wollongong Local Government Area reported by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

The priority crime terms are in keeping with those reported by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Crime</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Lead agency and partners</th>
<th>Expected outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Malicious damage including graffiti</strong></td>
<td>Reduce damage to property including graffiti by reducing the opportunities for it to occur and making it less rewarding for offenders.</td>
<td>Wollongong City Council, NSW Police, NSW Department of Justice, Corrective Services of NSW, the business sector and residents.</td>
<td>Improved perception of safety and pride in place due to a reduction in graffiti across the LGA and in graffiti hot spots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Assault domestic violence</strong></td>
<td>Reporting of domestic violence assault increases due to campaigns that raise awareness and promote support services in Wollongong.</td>
<td>Illawarra Committee against Domestic Violence (ICADV), Wollongong Business Community.</td>
<td>Reporting of domestic violence will increase. Figures for attendance at the annual White Ribbon Walk will continue to rise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Assault non-domestic violence (alcohol related)</strong></td>
<td>Opportunities for alcohol related assault are reduced as a result of community education and community partnership strategies.</td>
<td>NSW Police, Wollongong City Council, Wollongong Liquor Accord, Wollongong Transport Committee, Community Drug Action Team (CDAT).</td>
<td>Wollongong continues to show a decreasing trend regarding incidents of alcohol related assaults in the CBD and other hotspots. Travelling home from a late night out in Wollongong is safer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) including harassment, threatening and offensive behaviour</strong></td>
<td>Anti-social behaviour including harassment and threatening behaviour is reduced.</td>
<td>Wollongong City Council, residents, community groups and the business sector.</td>
<td>People feel safer across the LGA. Incidents of reported and actual ASB are reduced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Perceived and actual community safety</strong></td>
<td>Feelings of safety by residents across the LGA are improved.</td>
<td>Wollongong City Council.</td>
<td>Residents feel safer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Background

WHAT IS COMMUNITY SAFETY?
Being and feeling safe is the focus of community safety. Being and feeling safe enables community participation, inclusiveness and feelings of belonging that makes using public space, public services and facilities an everyday occurrence. It means we can move through our region, our city and our neighbourhoods by any means: driving, walking, cycling and using public transport. 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.

WHAT IS CRIME PREVENTION?
Crime prevention from Council’s perspective is about creating an urban landscape that makes it harder to commit crime, activates public space and raises awareness in the community about crime prevention strategies. Community safety and crime prevention go hand in hand to improve safety, reduce crime and reduce the fear of crime that affects quality of life.

HOW DO WE ADDRESS CRIME, FEAR OF CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY?
Council uses primary and secondary crime prevention methodologies to address crime, fear of crime and community safety (see diagram 1).

Situational Prevention:
This approach reduces the opportunities to commit crime and increases the risks of being caught to the offender. Situational crime prevention enhances the physical environment so people feel safer in public and private space and crime is more difficult to commit.

Examples of this approach include:
- Trimming trees and vegetation for clearer sightlines and to reduce the likelihood of hiding
- Removing graffiti so public space looks and feels inviting
- Providing additional lighting in appropriate locations
- Planting ‘green screens’ to prevent graffiti in the first place
- Incorporating public art into public places making a place look and feel more attractive
- Organising activities to encourage greater legitimate use of a place

Social Prevention:
This approach focuses on the quality of life of residents. Social strategies aim to foster inclusiveness for all the community, giving people from all walks of life and across the region a sense of belonging. People who feel they are valued, with a strong sense of belonging to a community or place are less likely to commit crimes against their neighbours or neighbourhood. Social strategies try to reduce unemployment, improve health, education and affordable housing that provide positive experiences and connect community members.

Activating Space:
This approach turns underused public space or space used for criminal or anti-social behaviour into places used by the wider community for legitimate purposes. Events like markets, regular outdoor activities like exercise groups and public art are examples of activating space. When public space is used by people for legitimate purposes, it is less likely criminal or anti-social behaviour will occur there.

Community Development and Early Intervention:
These approaches work with ‘at risk’ communities, target high risk neighbourhoods and engage communities to support themselves in developing crime prevention and safety solutions. They are usually longer term strategies using partners like government and non-government agencies and organisations to work with communities to improve their physical and social environments.
Approaches to Crime Prevention

Primary Crime Prevention

Situational Prevention
- Design goods and services with crime prevention in mind.
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). For example, urban design that considers lighting, improved sightlines, trimmed trees, green screening and place based public art to minimise opportunities for crime to occur.

Social Prevention
- Alleviating poverty
- Improving health and education
- Reducing unemployment
- School based programs
- Organising community safety groups

Activating Space
Events, community participation and public art activities are examples that combine aspects of situational and social crime prevention principles.

Secondary Crime Prevention
- Community Development
  - Longer term strategy to foster community shared ownership of crime and solutions
  - Process of community engagement

Early Intervention
- Early identification of potential offenders
- Targeting high risk neighbourhoods
- Programs for youth at risk

Tertiary Crime Prevention
- Criminal Justice System
- Offender Program
- Working with victims of crime

Diagram 1: Approaches to Crime Prevention
Strategic Setting

RELATIONSHIP TO COUNCIL’S STRATEGIC PLANNING

Wollongong City Council has had a Crime Prevention Policy in place since 2000. This Policy was reviewed and the amended Policy adopted in 2013. The Wollongong City Council Community Safety Plan 2016-2020 sits within the context of this policy as well as the Wollongong 2022: Community Strategic Plan.

Wollongong 2022: Community Strategic Plan outlines the Wollongong community’s priorities and aspirations and how these will be achieved. It enables Council to collectively respond to emerging challenges and opportunities and provides direction for the provision of key projects and services which enable Council to meet the needs of our community.

OUR COMMUNITY VISION

From the mountains to the sea, we value and protect our natural environment and we will be leaders in building an educated, creative and connected community.

OUR COMMUNITY GOALS

1. We value and protect our environment
2. We have an innovative and sustainable economy
3. Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city
4. We are a connected and engaged community
5. We are a healthy community in a liveable city
6. We have sustainable, affordable and accessible transport

Community safety is supported within Wollongong 2022 under Goal 5.

WOLLONGONG 2022

Goal 5 - We are a healthy community in a liveable city
Objective 5.4 Community Safety is improved

5.4.1 Partnerships continue to strengthen and achieve a safe and accessible community
5.4.2 Local crime continues to be prevented and levels of crime reduced
5.4.3 Safety is considered in the planning and design of any development

Aim and Objectives

AIM

The Community Safety Plan 2016-2020 is a strategic plan of actions that enable Wollongong City Council, together with community stakeholders, other levels of government and the business sector, to strengthen communities and achieve inclusive places and spaces, where crime is prevented and people feel and are safer.

OBJECTIVES

- Improve actual and perceived community safety
- Embed community safety strategies across the whole of Council
- Reduce crimes that have the highest impact in our area
Engagement and Communications


We have asked the community their safety priorities, what crimes most affect them and how they perceive their own safety. We have spoken with particular communities like young people of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community, older carers of people who live with a disability and members of the multicultural community.

We’ve spoken with Council’s Aboriginal and Community Safety Reference Groups. We’ve gone to Council’s Neighbourhood Forums to speak with the community where they live.

We ran a survey across the whole LGA (Perception of Safety Survey) to ask people how safe they feel, in the day time, at night, where they live and where they work. We asked them if there are particular places they find problematic and what issues concern them the most.

The Plan was placed on public exhibition for four weeks for further comment. The final Plan incorporates data from all these sources to develop an action plan focusing on community safety and targeting specific localised crimes.

What you told us

**NSW POLICE**

Wollongong LGA has two Police Commands within its borders: Lake Illawarra and Wollongong Local Area Commands. They both have suburbs that are crime hotspots. Significant crime and crime targeting within the NSW Police Lake Illawarra Local Area Command (LAC) happens in two suburbs, both of whom have a low SEIFA figure and are suburbs of disadvantage. This LAC is rated within the top 10 of the State for domestic violence. Domestic violence takes up most of their time with almost half of their assault call outs in August 2015 related to this crime, resulting in 200 arrests for domestic violence assault [NSW Police, Lake Illawarra Local Area Command Community Safety Precinct meeting, 30 September 2015].

NSW Police Wollongong LAC also highlighted domestic violence as a crime that required significant resourcing. This LAC is tasking suburbs which are known crime hotspots as well as the City Centre for alcohol related crime (NSW Police, Wollongong Local Area Command Community Safety Precinct meeting, 3 March 2016).

Established Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ) in seven locales across the Wollongong LGA were renewed for another four years from October 2014 to September 2018. Both Local Area Commands requested the renewal of these AFZ’s in an effort to reduce public drinking and associated anti-social behaviour. The AFZ’s are located within Wollongong’s CBD and beachside picnic areas, Thirroul CBD (a beachside suburb), Dapto, Corrimal, Berkeley and Warrawong CBD’s (historically all problematic public drinking hot spots) and Helensburgh CBD (isolated small shopping precinct).

**PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY SURVEY**

90% of residents who participated in the Perceptions of Safety Survey 2014 feel completely or mostly safe in their own neighbourhood. More than 70% feel satisfied or very satisfied with how safe they feel, generally. In the City Centre, people raised safety concerns about anti-social behaviour - 36%, drug related issues - 33%, alcohol related issues - 24.5% and violent behaviour 23.2%.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The issue of graffiti generated a mixed response. As an art form, not just ‘tags’, people of all ages thought it enhanced public space and made it look good. Tagging however, “could make a place look dirty, was a form of littering and sends the wrong message that damaging property was OK” (young woman’s comments in GLBTI focus group). Older residents felt tagging increased their fear of crime thereby reducing their quality of life. They felt unable to safely walk around their neighbourhood, especially when tags were evident on private property like fences.

Some people are fearful of intoxicated strangers in public and residential estates. Consultations with older people revealed intoxicated and drug affected strangers in public prevented them from walking in their neighbourhoods and shopping centres. They also said they feared alcohol affected people could become violent. They told us they have witnessed shouting and abusive behaviour in public places by people they believed were alcohol or drug affected. The Australian Drug Foundation’s Breaking the Ice’ forum, held in Wollongong in March 2016, highlighted concerns from the general community about the impact and resources available for families affected by ‘ice’ addiction.

Unlit and isolated places with derelict buildings generated fear of crime and made people feel unsafe. Anti-social behaviour was an issue that concerned people who participated in the consultations. Types of anti-social behaviour include threatening and intimidating behaviour, often by people.
who others thought were alcohol or drug affected. Anti-social behaviour of this kind impacted on people’s amenity. People are still concerned with crimes like domestic and other violence and the impacts on the community of drug and alcohol abuse, in spite of the general downward trend of crime across NSW. Residents who hear shouts and screams from neighbours were severely affected by this and highlighted domestic violence as a crime they were most concerned about. More than one resident revealed they lived near families they thought were living with domestic violence.

**Partners**

Crime prevention and community safety needs a whole of Council approach. Many Divisions within Council contribute significantly to reducing opportunities for crime and improving community safety.

**INTERNAL PARTNERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council Division</th>
<th>Community Safety Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regulation and Enforcement</td>
<td>Animal control, illegal dumping, noise control, parking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Assessment and Certification</td>
<td>Assess development applications city wide using controls such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), traffic management and pedestrian safety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community, Cultural and Economic Development</td>
<td>Specialist community development officers such as community safety, Aboriginal, multicultural, cultural, aged and disability, graffiti prevention, youth and place-based. City wide events coordination such as Viva la Gong, NAIDOC, Refugee, Seniors and Youth Weeks, Australia Day and New Year’s Eve. Public art and creative spaces strategies. Business development such as the building façade revitalisation program in the City Centre and the development of the Evening Economy Strategy. Alcohol Free Zones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and Recreation</td>
<td>Life guards and water safety education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Strategy and Planning</td>
<td>Bush fire and flood mitigation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Works and Services</td>
<td>Graffiti removal and rubbish removal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure Strategy and Planning</td>
<td>Road safety. CCTV operations and management.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**EXTERNAL PARTNERS**

External organisations play a key role in supporting Council initiatives. Similarly, Council supports strategies and initiatives that are originated by other agencies and the business sector.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NSW Police, Lake Illawarra and Wollongong Local Area Commands</strong></td>
<td>Community Safety Precinct meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Safety Audits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representation on Council’s Community Safety Reference Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joint projects including place-based projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illawarra Committee against Domestic Violence (ICADV)</strong></td>
<td>White Ribbon and Reclaim the Night campaigns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Domestic and family violence education and awareness raising.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)</strong></td>
<td>Community, government and non-government interagency meetings implementing projects such as Creating Synergy Conference and ‘Breaking the ICE’ Forum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local Government Community Safety and Crime Prevention Network (LGCSCPEN)</strong></td>
<td>Information sharing across NSW Councils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Education and conferences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wollongong Liquor Accord</strong></td>
<td>Joint strategies and projects to promote responsible drinking behaviour that improves community safety and amenity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What have we been doing over the last four years?

Council’s Community Safety Reference Group meets quarterly and brings together partners from NSW Police, Government and non-Government agencies and community members to identify and drive the development of specific strategies to improve and enhance community safety in the Wollongong Local Government Area.

Council has been implementing the Community Safety Plan 2012-2016 which, after extensive consultation at the time, identified key areas including:

- Assault- non-domestic (alcohol related) and domestic violence.
- Malicious damage to property- graffiti and anti-social behaviour.
- Steal from motor vehicle.
- Increase real and perceived community safety.

ASSAULT- NON-DOMESTIC (ALCOHOL RELATED)

In order to reduce the incidents of alcohol related assault, Council committed to a number of initiatives that encouraged responsible drinking behaviour, improved the community’s understanding regarding alcohol related laws and strengthened partnerships with relevant Government and non-Government agencies including the business sector.

These strategies and projects included:

- In the Midnight Hour- a research project in partnership with Wollongong TAFE uncovering the reality of a Saturday night in the City Centre and the issues faced by people enjoying a night out, highlighting the lack of late night transport options as the biggest factor in people’s safety.

- Hassle Free Night- a project attempting to address late night transport issues by disseminating information about transport options.
- City Centre Evening Economy Action Plan- a range of strategies to encourage responsible drinking behaviour through the establishment of small bars and licensed eateries. The Strategy supports a mix of public and private events and attractions in key areas of the City by simplifying the event application process for 10 events per area per annum. Activating key areas within the City, especially outside normal business hours, generates places that are people-friendly and non-threatening, reducing the opportunity for criminal activity.
- Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ) and Alcohol Prohibited Places - supporting Police and the community to reduce alcohol fueled incidents in public places across Wollongong. There are seven AFZ’s across Wollongong and 18 parks that have Alcohol Prohibited Place status.
- Partnerships with the NSW and Local Liquor Accords- to continue working collaboratively in reducing incidents fueled by alcohol and continue to improve Wollongong’s reputation as a destination for a safe night out.

Results from these combined strategies as well as support from Wollongong and Lake Illawarra Licensing Police shows a decrease of 10.6%* in alcohol related assault over five years.


ASSAULT- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Council supports NSW Police and non-Government agencies working in the area of reducing family and domestic violence by partnering with the Illawarra Committee against Domestic Violence, Reclaim the Night and White Ribbon Campaigns.

Results from these National campaigns as well as the work done by NSW Police and the NSW Court Assistance Scheme show domestic violence is stable * in the Wollongong LGA over the last five years. Breach of Apprehended Violence Orders is considered stable * over five years, however there are spikes recorded during that time.


MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY FROM GRAFFITI AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Graffiti and malicious damage to property from anti-social behaviour is a significant issue facing communities across Wollongong.

Strategies to reduce property damage and graffiti include:

- Rapid graffiti removal program on Council assets
- Council’s Graffiti Line promotion encouraging residents to report graffiti
- City Centre Special Rate Levy for community safety initiatives including rapid removal of graffiti in the City Centre
- Community development programs supporting artists and the community to deliver art on bus shelters and Roads and Maritime Services signal boxes as well as public art on buildings and promenades, thereby minimizing the risk of graffiti in hotspot areas throughout Wollongong
• Partnering with NSW Justice, Corrective Services and community organisations like Rotary and Essential Personel to remove graffiti from non Council assets, and work with offenders as well as people with a disability who receive training and are supported to become job ready.

• Assessing new developments using Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) criteria that makes it harder to graffiti buildings, riskier to offenders and less rewarding to commit this crime.

Results show an 8.1% decrease of incidents over five years.

* NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, July 2010- Dec 2014.

INCREASED REAL AND PERCEIVED COMMUNITY SAFETY

How safe we feel is often directly related to the look of public space: where we live, work and recreate. Community Safety initiatives that improve public space and the built environment include:

• Community Safety Audits- these are conducted with and without NSW Police in response to issues and concerns raised by community, NSW Police or other stakeholders. Community Safety Audits provide on-site observations and recommendations that make facilities and public spaces feel and look safer and reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour to occur.

• Development Application safety assessments against Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles for new developments across Wollongong. The assessments comment on lighting, sightlines, boundary reinforcement and access points as well as the use of appropriate landscape designs for green screening and other initiatives that minimise opportunities for crime.

• Community Development initiatives that activate spaces that may otherwise be isolated or underused. Place-based projects involve community and residents in improving the design and look of public places through the use of public art and engagement strategies.

• Developing and implementing community development programs in specific neighborhoods like the Bellambi 2518 Collective Impact Project coordinating the enthusiasm and strength of the local residents, businesses and other levels of government in creating community driven action plans to improve safety and reduce crime.

Results tabled in the Perceptions of Safety Survey, conducted in 2014, show a baseline figure of 90% of residents feel completely or mostly safe walking around their local area and workers/students felt 73.6% completely or mostly safe walking around their local area (77.9% live within the City Centre). 70% of residents and 72.9% of workers/students who live within the City Centre felt satisfied with how safe they felt generally.

STEAL FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

Steal from motor vehicle is a common crime on the coast during summer and at any time in commuter car parks. Beachgoers hide keys on cars and commuters leave valuables in plain sight resulting in theft of personal items as well as car stereos and other devices.

Private residence car ports and driveways are other hot spots targeted by opportunistic offenders looking for unlocked cars and easy access to valuables. Wollongong City Council’s Community Safety Officer attends regular Community Safety Precinct meetings with NSW Police Lake Illawarra and Wollongong Local Area Commands that provide information on the most prevalent crimes committed in the area.

In 2012, Council partnered with NSW Police Wollongong Local Area Command in supporting free fittings of anti-theft screws for car license plates in one of Council’s car parks to reduce the incidence of stolen plates that are often used on vehicles involved in crimes.

Results indicate this crime is stable over five years^.

SECTION 2

Moving forward: the next four years

The Community Safety Plan 2016-2020, based on BOCsar statistics, consultations with NSW Police, Lake Illawarra and Wollongong Local Area Commands, the business sector and the community, focuses on specific crimes as well as improving how safe the community feels. It also includes information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Crime Victimisation Survey 2013-2014.

While the crimes targeted in this Community Safety Plan 2016-2020 have not shown an upward trend over the last five year period, it is important to note they all have a significant impact on the local community. Many crimes are under reported to NSW Police, making the statistics generated from crime reports unreflective of the real numbers of incidents and the real impact to the community.

The ABS Crime Victimisation Survey 2013-2014 (published Feb 2015) shows that:

“When it comes to household crime, malicious property damage continues to be the most common, with over half a million homes – about 6% - experiencing it”. Half the people who experienced property damage didn’t report the incident to police, most commonly thinking it was too trivial to report.

12% of household victims believed that there was nothing the Police could do.

Regarding assault, the ABS Crime Victimisation Survey 2013-2014 states: “Being threatened with assault - in a face-to-face situation - is still the most common type of personal crime, with nearly half a million Australians experiencing this sort of threat,” said William Milne from the ABS. “For men, the threat was most likely to come from a stranger, while for women it was more likely to come from someone they knew. Almost two-thirds of people who were threatened with assault didn’t report the incident to police, often because they thought the incident was too trivial or unimportant. People also felt that alcohol or other drugs contributed to the incident in around half of all cases”.

Similarly regarding threatening behaviour, ABS Crime Victimisation Survey 2013-2014 highlights that only just over a third (34%) of persons who experienced face-to-face threatened assault reported their most recent incident to police.

Many of the crimes targeted within the Community Safety Plan over the next four years are interrelated. Alcohol related assault can often go hand-in-hand with anti-social behaviours. Anti-social behaviours also include malicious damage and graffiti.

Priority crimes:

- Malicious damage/graffiti
- Assault- domestic violence and non-domestic violence related [alcohol related]
- Anti-social behaviour including harassment and threatening behaviour

Priority for community safety:

- Increase actual and perceived community safety

Wollongong’s crime statistics and profile (Appendix 1, Crime Profile) highlight suburbs that are crime hotspots. Living and working in and around these hotspots generates fear for one’s safety and reduces the community’s amenity within these areas.

Developing strategies and implementing projects that reduce crime in these hotspots will improve the community’s feelings of safety, reduce their fear of crime and positively impact on their quality of life. Reducing crime in these locales will also reduce the number of victims of crime in these suburb hotspots, regardless of whether or not they report the crime.

What do the LGA crime rankings mean?

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) rank Local Government Areas (LGA) in NSW that have populations greater than 3000. In 2014, BOCSAR reported there are 139 such Local Government Areas.

Rankings are statistical equations that factor in the number of incidents of reported crime against a rate per 100,000 population.

If an LGA is ranked #1 out of 139 (or close to the top) for any reported crime it indicates the highest incidents of that crime against the population rate within that LGA. Being #1 in this instance is to be avoided. Being closer to the bottom, or ranked last for a particular crime, is a better ranking indicating a community with fewer reported incidents of that crime per population.
Crime Prevention Action Plan 2016-2020

1. Priority offence: malicious damage including graffiti

**Project:**
Reduce damage to property including graffiti by reducing the opportunities for it to occur and making it less rewarding for offenders.
Encourage reporting of malicious damage including graffiti.

**Rationale:**
12,146 incidents of graffiti were reported to Wollongong City Council's Graffiti Line over the last four years.
Wollongong LGA is ranked 60 out of 139 Local Government Areas in NSW*.
Hot spot suburbs recorded significantly higher numbers of incidents for malicious damage than the state average**.

**Objective:**
To reduce graffiti and malicious damage.
To increase reporting of graffiti to Council’s Graffiti Line.

**Lead Agency/partners:**
Wollongong City Council, NSW Police, NSW Department of Justice, Corrective Services of NSW, Wollongong business community.

**Expected outcome:**
Improved perception of safety and pride in place due to a reduction in graffiti across the LGA and in graffiti hot spots.

---

* NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) 2015
** Crime profile Appendix 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance measures</th>
<th>Time frames</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 <strong>Assess building development applications against CPTED controls to minimise graffiti opportunities</strong></td>
<td>• Number of DA referrals with graffiti controls completed</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Existing operational budget</td>
<td>• Development Assessment and Certification</td>
<td>• All major building development applications are referred by Development Assessment and Certification for CPTED assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 <strong>Conduct rapid removal of graffiti on Council assets</strong></td>
<td>• Graffiti is removed within a week in the City Centre and Special Rates Levy boundary • 100% of offensive graffiti on Council assets is removed within 24 hours of it being reported</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Special Rates Levy Existing operational budget</td>
<td>• City Works and Services</td>
<td>• The City Centre is free of graffiti every day • (Proposed) Perception of Safety Survey indicates an improvement in how safe the community feels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 <strong>Support the removal of graffiti from non-Council assets</strong></td>
<td>• Record the numbers of graffiti removal kits provided to asset owners to assist in removing graffiti • All cases of graffiti given to partner agencies are removed by those agencies for this purpose</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Existing operational budget</td>
<td>• Community Partners • Community and Government agencies</td>
<td>• Asset owners contribute to the removal of graffiti on their own assets • External agencies continue to partner with Council in removing graffiti on non-Council assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 <strong>Conduct place-based graffiti prevention projects in graffiti hot spot areas</strong></td>
<td>• Participate in and promote Graffiti Removal Day • A number of graffiti reduction and prevention projects are conducted as appropriate</td>
<td>Conducted annually Ongoing</td>
<td>Existing operational budget External funding, when secured</td>
<td>• Place-based community organisations</td>
<td>• Community participates in removing graffiti in their own neighbourhoods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table continues overleaf.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance measures</th>
<th>Time frames</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1.5 Participate in arts-based graffiti prevention partnership projects | • A minimum of 10 bus shelters are painted with murals to reduce graffiti  
• A minimum of 10 Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) signal boxes are painted to prevent graffiti | Ongoing | Existing operational budget  
RMS funding | • Cultural Services  
• Place-based organisations and communities  
• Roads and Maritime Services | • RMS and Council readily support art on bus shelters and RMS signal boxes  
• Perception of safety survey indicates people feel safer when art replaces graffiti |
| 1.6 Promote Council’s Graffiti Line to report incidents of graffiti and other malicious damage | • Increase in the numbers of reports to Graffiti Line over 4 years | Ongoing | Existing operational budget | Wollongong City Council Customer Service | Community report graffiti using Council’s Graffiti Line  
There has been an increase in reporting graffiti to Council |
| 1.7 Retailers selling spray cans are audited for legislative compliance | • Number of retailers’ audits completed | 2016/2017 | NSW Police operational budget | NSW Police | Retailers comply with legislation regarding sales of spray cans |
| 1.8 Conduct community safety audits | • All customer service requests for community safety audits are investigated | Ongoing | Existing operational budget | NSW Police  
Place-based organisations and communities | To reduce graffiti, place-based organisations and communities request community safety audits |
2. Priority offence: assault domestic violence

Project: Reporting of assault domestic violence increases due to campaigns that raise awareness and promote support services in Wollongong.

Rationale: Domestic violence across NSW has increased by 2.7% over a five year trend. Breaches of apprehended violence orders have increased over a five year period by 3.2%. * Wollongong ranks 74 out of 139 LGAs with a steady increase in the number of reported incidents from 2010-2014, higher than previous years*. Figures for attendance at Wollongong’s White Ribbon Walk 2015 reached approximately 600 people, double the figures from the previous year. NSW Police, Lake Illawarra and Wollongong LACs both highlight domestic violence as a significant crime with NSW Police Lake Illawarra LAC ranking 6th in NSW**. Hot spot suburbs for this crime show significantly higher numbers of incidents than the state average***.

Objective: Increase reporting of domestic violence assault in the Wollongong LGA. Provide support for local networks and services in raising awareness about domestic and family violence in Wollongong.

Lead Agency/partners: Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence.

Expected outcome: Reporting of domestic violence will increase. Figures for attendance at the annual White Ribbon Walk will continue to rise.

* NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2014
** Lake Illawarra and Wollongong Local Area Command Community Safety Precinct meetings, 2015/2016
*** Crime Profile Appendix 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance measures</th>
<th>Time frames</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Work in partnership with lead agencies that provide support for victims of family and domestic violence to share information and raise awareness about the issue</td>
<td>• Regular attendance at meetings held by the Illawarra Committee against Domestic Violence (ICADV)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Existing operational budget</td>
<td>• ICADV members</td>
<td>• The production and distribution of an Illawarra Domestic Violence Services booklet showcasing all services available for families in the region&lt;br&gt;• ICADV organised forums and training are scheduled annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Support White Ribbon and Reclaim the Night campaigns</td>
<td>• Illawarra White Ribbon Walk held each year&lt;br&gt;• Reclaim the Night held each year</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Existing operational budget</td>
<td>• White Ribbon Illawarra Committee&lt;br&gt;• Reclaim the Night Committee</td>
<td>• Both campaigns are included in Council’s Annual Plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Priority offence: assault non-domestic violence (alcohol related)

Project: Opportunities for alcohol related assault are reduced as a result of community education and partnership strategies with Wollongong Liquor Accord members, improving transport options for late night revellers.

Rationale: Wollongong is ranked 60 out of 139 LGAs for recorded incidents of non-domestic violence assault. This ranking shows Wollongong has the highest incidents per capita of all LGA’s in the Illawarra*. Alcohol related assault non-domestic violence is decreasing by 10.6% over a five year trend, however, 36.1% of all non-domestic violence assaults and are linked to alcohol*. According to the ABS** 67.4% of men and 54.7% of women believed alcohol or other substances contributed to their assaults and 90.7% of people believed their assaults that occurred in a licensed venue had alcohol as a contributing factor. Wollongong is a regional hub for night entertainment whose reputation is improving regarding safer night time revelling due in part to the implementation of the Wollongong Evening Economy Action Plan. The strategy encourages activation of public space and the growth of small late night venues that support responsible drinking culture. In the Midnight Hour, a research project from 2012, concluded that limited late night transport options from Wollongong CBD compromised people’s safety travelling home.

Objective: Reduce incidents of alcohol related non-domestic violence assaults. Improve late night transport options from Wollongong CBD, especially during summer.

Lead Agency/partners: Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence.

Expected outcome: Wollongong continues to show a decreasing trend regarding incidents of alcohol related assaults in the CBD and other hot spots. Travelling home from a late night out in Wollongong is safer.

* NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2014
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance measures</th>
<th>Time frames</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Comment against CPTED Principles regarding Development Applications for liquor licences</td>
<td>• 100% of all new liquor licence applications are referred to community safety for comment</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Existing operational budget</td>
<td>• Development Assessment and Compliance</td>
<td>• The process for referring new liquor licences against community safety is a standard operating process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3.2 Respond to requests from NSW Police and the community for alcohol free public places | • Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ) and Alcohol Prohibited Places are reviewed every four years  
• All customer service requests relating to alcohol free public places are investigated | 2017/2018       | Existing operational budget   | • Public Relations and Communications  
• Infrastructure Systems and Support  
• NSW Police | • All AFZ and Alcohol Prohibited Places are mapped and available on Council’s website for the community’s information  
• AFZ’s and Alcohol Prohibited Places are re-established where and when appropriate |
| 3.3 Conduct safety audits focusing on consumption of alcohol in public spaces | • All customer service requests for safety audits are investigated                                                                         | As requested    | Existing operational budget   | • NSW Police  
• Community  
• Community groups | • People acknowledge Council has a role to play in restricting the consumption of alcohol in public spaces |
| 3.4 Undertake partnerships with CDAT and youth based services to support and promote community development and education programs that target unlawful consumption of alcohol | • Talking Tactics Together is conducted in public schools  
• Community resources are produced  
• Community forums are conducted | Ongoing         | External funding for CDAT programs if successful | • Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)  
• Wollongong Liquor Accord  
• NSW Police | • Community acknowledges its responsibility in reducing drinking habits of young people |

Table continues overleaf.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance measures</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Timeframes</th>
<th>Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.5 Promote and attend Wollongong Liquor Accord meetings</td>
<td>• Number of meetings attended</td>
<td>Existing operational budget</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>• Wollongong Liquor Accord • NSW Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6 Conduct a comparative study of incidents of assault and anti-social behaviours experienced by revellers late at night during peak times in Wollongong</td>
<td>• Data is compiled indicating the level of violence and anti-social behaviour experienced by revellers in Wollongong during peak times</td>
<td>Subject to external funding</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>• Community Partnerships and Safety Team • TAFE Wollongong • Wollongong Liquor Accord</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Milestones**

- The partnership between Council, NSW Police and Wollongong Liquor Accord is strengthened.
- Provide information to Council’s partners to reduce alcohol related violence in the CBD.
4. Priority offence: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) including harassment, threatening and offensive behaviour

Project: Anti-social behaviours including harassment and threatening behaviour is reduced through the activation of Wollongong Crown St Mall and other public spaces that are otherwise underused or isolated from regular activity.

Rationale: Wollongong LGA is ranked 71 out of 139 LGAs with more than 800 incidents reported to Police in 2014*. The Perceptions of Safety Survey conducted by Wollongong City Council in 2014 highlighted anti-social behaviour in the Wollongong Crown St Mall was of concern to 36% of those surveyed. 16.2% thought anti-social behaviour throughout the LGA was an issue Council needed to reduce. Reported alcohol related offensive behaviour is considered trending downwards by 17.3%* over the last five years. However, according to the ABS Crime Victimisation Survey 2013-2014 only 34.3% of people who had been threatened with assault reported the last incident to Police. 23.5% of people thought the incident too trivial to report and 9% thought there was nothing police could do. Suburbs with high numbers of incidents for anti-social behaviour showed much higher numbers of incidents than the state average**.

Objective: Reduce the incidents of ASB in the city centre as well as other public places throughout Wollongong LGA.

Lead Agency/partners: Wollongong City Council, NSW Police and City Centre Management.

Expected outcome: People feel safer in the Crown St Mall and other public places. Incidents of reported and actual ASB are reduced.

* NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2014
** Crime Profile Appendix 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance measures</th>
<th>Time frames</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4.1  Work in partnership to develop localised place-based activation strategies to improve safety and amenity in hot spot areas | • Numbers of partnership projects and activation strategies.  
• ASB is reduced.                                                        | Ongoing     | Existing operational budget      | • Place-based organisations  
• Place-based Chambers of Commerce  
• Community                                                              | • Public places in hotspot locations are activated and used by residents.       |
| 4.2  Assess building development applications using CPTED Principles that encourage valid social activity | • Number of DA’s assessed using CPTED principles.                                      | Ongoing     | Existing operational budget      | • Development Assessment and Compliance  
• NSW Police                                                              | • All new building development applications are referred to Community Safety for CPTED assessments. |
| 4.3  Conduct safety audits at facilities and public spaces in hot spot locations | • All customer service requests for community safety audits to reduce ASB are investigated. | Ongoing     | Existing operational budget      | • Branch Libraries and Community Facilities  
• Sporting clubs and facilities  
• Community  
• NSW Police                                                              | • Community and partners acknowledge Council’s role in reducing ASB.           |
5. Priority for community safety: perceived and actual community safety

**Project:**  
Feelings of safety by residents across the LGA are improved.

**Rationale:**  
Wollongong City Council conducted a Perception of Safety Survey in 2014 that showed people have mixed feelings regarding how safe they feel. The Survey highlighted areas they felt less safe within the City Centre as well as what contributed to these feelings and what Council needed to focus on, moving forward.

**Objective:**  
To improve the actual and perceived feelings of safety for residents.

**Lead Agency/partners:**  
Wollongong City Council.

**Expected outcome:**  
Residents feel safer.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance measures</th>
<th>Time frames</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5.1 Conduct a comparative LGA wide Perceptions of Safety Survey with Wollongong residents | • Comparative Perceptions of Safety Survey findings are published.  
• Comparison findings show people feel safer where they live, recreate and shop. | 2017        | Additional funding       | • Public Relations and Communications  
• External consultant                                                       | • Comparative Perceptions of Safety Survey is completed.  
• Comparative findings of the Perception of Safety Survey provides a benchmark about how the community feels in the public arena. |
| 5.2 Develop and implement projects that reduce residents' concerns highlighted in the comparative Perceptions of Safety Survey | • Projects that activate public space are developed and implemented.                  | 2018        | Subject to funding       | • Community Partnerships and Safety Team                                   | • Communities actively participate in the development and implementation of activation projects. |

Note: All previous actions in the priority crime action tables contribute to and support improving the community’s actual and perceived feelings of safety.
APPENDICES

Appendix 1:
Crime Profile Wollongong LGA Crime Statistics

Information and tables below were created from data retrieved from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research using their online crime data tools and crime mapping tool in February 2016 (www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au). Data has been extracted and presented covering four prevalent offences in the LGA:

- Assault Non-Domestic Violence
- Assault Domestic Violence
- Malicious Damage to Property (incl. Graffiti)
- Harassment Threatening Behaviour and Private Nuisance

The methodology used to review each offence involved:

1. A general assessment of the offence, ranking it against other NSW LGAs and incident trends over a 36 month period (from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015), along with looking at the effect of alcohol on this offence;

2. Identifying hotspots showing where the offence has most commonly occurred;

3. Assessing when offences have been occurring i.e. weekends or weekdays; and

4. Numbers of Adult / Child Offenders; and numbers of Male and Female Victims.
## 1. Assault Non-Domestic Violence

### General
- In 2014, Wollongong ranked 60th out of all NSW LGAs for this crime - an improvement from the previous year of 54th in 2013, but worse compared to 62nd in 2012.
- The number of Assault Non-Domestic Violence incidents in the LGA declined 9.9% per year from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015.
- Alcohol related Assault Non-Domestic incidents decreased 18.3% per year from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015.

### LGA Hot Spots
- Assault Non-Domestic Violence incidents from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 occurred in hot spot areas primarily situated in and around town centres namely Berkeley, Corrimal, Dapto, Fairy Meadow, Thirroul, Unanderra, Warrawong, Wollongong and Woonona with Bellambi being the exception.
- Assault Non-Domestic Violence rates in all hot spot areas, except Wollongong, were stable over the 3 year period. Wollongong recorded a 9.9% downward trend per year.

### Priority Incident times
- Assault Non-Domestic Violence incidents during weekday nights from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 reduced 14.4% per year across the LGA.
- Assault Non-Domestic Violence showed 1221 (42.7%) occurred over the weekend whereas 1634 (57.3%) occurred during the weekday over the 3 year period.
- Assault Non-Domestic Violence incidents during weekend nights decreased 18.4% per year across the LGA.

### Offenders & Victims
- Adult male offending decreased 18.5% per year whereas adult female offending was steady.
- Adult offenders were 570 (79.8%) male and 144 (21.2%) female.
- Male juvenile offenders were 99 (62.3%) male and 60 (37.7%) female.
- Male victim trends decreased 10.5% per year over the LGA whereas adult female victim trends were steady.
- A total of 1825 (70.9%) of adult victims were male compared to 749 (29.1%) female.
- 255 (59.7%) of juvenile victims were male compared to 172 (41.3%) female.

### LGA Hot Spot
- Higher assault non-domestic violence rates from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 have occurred in certain areas known as hotspots (see Map 1.0: LGA’s Assault Non-Domestic Violence Hot spot Areas). Hot spot areas are situated in and around town centres for Berkeley, Corrimal, Dapto, Fairy Meadow, Thirroul, Unanderra, Warrawong, Wollongong and Woonona, with Bellambi being the exception.
- Assaults rates per 100,000 population in all hot spot areas (except Wollongong) have been stable over the 3 year period. Wollongong recorded a 9.9% downward trend per year.
- Graph 1: Top Ten Assault Non-Domestic Violence Hotspot Suburb Rates per 100,000 population from Oct 14 to Sept 2015, shows **Wollongong, Warrawong and Bellambi** as having the highest assault rates.
Map 1: LGA's Assault Non-Domestic Violence Hotspot Areas.
**Priority Incident Times**

- Assaults non-domestic violence incidents during weekday nights from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 reduced 14.4% per year across the LGA. Non DV assaults during weekday days over the same time period were stable.
- 35% of non-domestic violence assaults occurred in the weekday days as oppose to 65% occurring during weekday nights.
- Total number of non-domestic violence assaults analysed showed 1221 (42.7%) occurred over the weekend whereas 1634 (57.3%) occurred over the weekday times.
- Assault non-domestic violence incidents during weekend nights decreased 18.4% per year across the LGA. However during weekend days the incident numbers were stable.
- 29% of non-domestic violence assaults occurred in the weekend day as oppose to 71% occurring during weekend nights.

**Offenders**

- The trend of adult males offending decreased 18.5% per year over the Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 period whereas adult female offender trends were steady.
- The number of adult male committing this assault offence over the 3 year period totalled 570 (79.8%) – significantly more compared to adult female assault offenders of 144 (21.2%).
- The numbers of child / juvenile male and female offenders consisted of 99 (62.3%) male offenders and 60 (37.7%) female offenders.

**Victims**

- Adult male victims decreased 10.5% per year from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 whereas adult female victim trends were steady.
- The number of adult male victims totalled 1825 (70.9%) over the 3 year period – over double the number of adult female assault victims of 749 (29.1%).
- The numbers of child / juvenile male and female victims consisted of 255 (59.7%) male victims and 172 (41.3%) female victims.
## 2. Assault Domestic Violence Related

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General</th>
<th>LGA Hot Spots</th>
<th>Priority Incident times</th>
<th>Offenders &amp; Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• In 2014, Wollongong ranked 74th out of all NSW LGAs, compared to previous years of 78th in 2013 and 81st in 2012.</td>
<td>• Assault Domestic Violence incidents from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 occurred in a number of hot spot areas with incident counts being stable. However downward trends were recorded in Berkeley (down 21.1% per year) and Bellambi (down 22.8% per year).</td>
<td>• Assault Domestic Violence incidents during weekdays and weekends (day and night) from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 were all steady.</td>
<td>• Adult and juvenile offender trends over the 3 year period for both males and females was steady.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The number of Assault Domestic Violence incidents in the LGA was steady from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015.</td>
<td>• Assault Domestic Violence rates were the highest in Warrawong, Bellambi and Unanderra from Oct 14 to Sept 2015.</td>
<td>• Assault Domestic Violence data showed 818 (41.2%) occurred over the weekend whereas 1311 (58.8%) occurred over the weekday times over the 3 year period.</td>
<td>• Adult offenders were 1063 (87%) male and 158 (13%) female.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Alcohol related Assault Domestic Violence incidents decreased 9.4% per year from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015.</td>
<td>• Adult male victim trends were steady per year whereas adult female victim trends were down 5.9% per year.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Male juvenile offenders were 76 (63.3%) male and 44 (36.7%) female.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### General

- From 139 Local Government Areas (that have populations greater than 3000), Wollongong LGA ranked 74th in 2014 for this offence. This ranking compared to the previous two years was higher (worse), with the LGA ranking 78th in 2013 and 81st in 2012. [LGA ranking tool http://bocd.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocd/cmd/ranking/Init](http://bocd.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocd/cmd/ranking/Init)

- The number of Assault Domestic Violence incidents in the Wollongong LGA was stable from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 - totalling 747 in 12/13, 752 in 13/14 and 730 in 14/15. Over this same period, the number of incidents across the state was stable.

- Alcohol related Domestic Violence Assault incidents across the LGA decreased 9.4% per year from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 whereas the NSW state count numbers decreased 4.8% per year.

### LGA Hot Spots

- Hotspot maps 2, 3 and 4 show suburbs across the LGA that have high number of Assault Domestic Violence incidents over the Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 period and include:
  - **Map 2**: [Southern Suburbs]: Berkeley, Cringila, Dapto, Koonawarra, Port Kembla, Farmborough Hts., Unanderra, Warrawong and Windang
  - **Map 3**: [Central Suburbs]: Balgownie, Fairy Meadow, Keiraville, North Wollongong, Tarrawanna and Wollongong
  - **Map 4**: [Northern Suburbs]: Bellambi, Bulli, Corrimal, East Corrimal and Woonona

- Trends for domestic related assaults have been steady for most of these suburbs over the 3 year period to Sept 2015. However there are two suburbs that recorded decreases and include Berkeley down 21.1% per year and Bellambi down 22.8% per year.

- Graph 2.0: Top Ten Assault Domestic Violence Hot Spot Suburb rates (per 100,000 population) show Warrawong, Bellambi and Unanderra recorded the highest rates over the Oct 2014 to Sept 2015 period.
Map 2: LGA Southern Suburb Hotspots for Assault Domestic Violence Related Crime.
Map 3: LGA Central Suburb Hotspots for Assault Domestic Violence Related Crime.
Map 4: LGA Northern Suburb Hotspots for Assault Domestic Violence Related Crime.
Priority Incident Times
- Domestic Violence Assault incidents during weekday nights and days and weekend nights and days all recorded steady trends over the Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 period.
- 40% of Domestic Violence Assaults occurred in the weekend days as oppose to 60% occurring during weekend nights.
- Total number of Domestic Violence Assaults analysed showed 818 [41.2%] occurred over weekends whereas 1311 [58.8%] occurred over weekday times.

Offenders
- The 3 year trend for adult and juvenile offenders for both male and female was steady.
- The number of adult males committing a Domestic Violence offence over the 3 year period totalled 1063 [87%] whereas adult female offenders tallied 158 [13%].
- The number of child / juvenile male and female offenders compared to adult, were significantly less over the same 3 year period was 76 [63.3%] male offenders and 44 [36.7%] female offenders.

Victims
- The 3 year trend of adult male victims was steady whereas adult female victim trends were down 5.9% per year.
- The number of adult male victims totalled 586 [27.3%] whilst adult female assault victims numbered 1567 [72.7%].
- The child / juvenile male victim 3 year trend was steady with female child victim trend down 20% per year.
- The numbers of child male victims was 95 [41.3%] and female victims 135 [58.7%].
### 3. Malicious Damage To Property (including Graffiti)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General</th>
<th>LGA Hot Spots</th>
<th>Priority Incident times</th>
<th>Offenders &amp; Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- In 2014, Wollongong ranked 60th out of all NSW LGAs, compared to previous years of 71st in 2013 and 69th in 2012.</td>
<td>- From Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 the number of incidents in most hot spot areas was steady.</td>
<td>- Incidents during weekdays and weekends (day and night) over the Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 period all recorded downward trends.</td>
<td>- Adult and juvenile offender trends over the 3 year period for both males and females was steady.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The number of incidents in the LGA declined 10.8% per year from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015.</td>
<td>- However downward trends were recorded in Wollongong (down 16.8% per year), Berkeley (down 12%), Dapto (down 17.5%), Port Kembla (down 23.2%) and Unanderra (down 22.1%).</td>
<td>- Malicious Damage to Property rates were the highest in Warrawong, Bellambi and Wollongong from Oct 14 to Sept 2015.</td>
<td>- Adult offenders were 748 (87.5%) male and 122 (12.5%) female.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Wollongong was ranked 9th in the state for the number of graffiti incidents in 2013.</td>
<td>- Malicious Damage to Property data showed 3597 (58.1%) incidents occurred over the weekend whereas 2588 (41.9%) incidents occurred over the weekday times over the 3 year period.</td>
<td>- Trends for malicious damage to property have been steady for many of these hot spot suburbs over the 3 year period to Sept 2015. However there were decreases in several suburbs including Wollongong down 16.8% per year, Berkeley down 12% per year, Dapto down 17.5% per year, Port Kembla down 23.2% per year and Unanderra down 22.1% per year.</td>
<td>- Male juvenile offenders were 219 (71.3%) male and 88 (28.7%) female.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Note: There are no crime statistics available on Victims for this offence.

**General**
- From 139 Local Government Areas Wollongong LGA ranked 60th in 2014 for this crime - worse than the previous years of 71st in 2013 and 69th in 2012 (LGA ranking tool http://bocd.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocd/cmd/ranking/Init).
- The number of malicious damage to property incidents in the Wollongong LGA declined 10.8% per year over the Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 period, with 2361 incidents in 2013, 1946 incidents in 2014 and 1878 incidents in 2015. NSW state incident counts declined 9.6% per year over the same period.
- In 2013, Wollongong LGA was ranked 9th out of the 139 Local Government Areas for the number of graffiti incidents (NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 2014).
- A total of 12,146 incidents of graffiti were reported to Council’s Graffiti Line over the last four years.
- Across the state in the 2013-2014 financial year, the premise types most commonly targeted by graffiti were 1.residential dwellings (25.9 per cent), 2.public transport (18.4 per cent), 3.business/commercial (17.1 per cent) and 4.outdoor/public places (14.9 per cent).

**LGA Hot Spots**
- Map 5 shows suburbs across the LGA that have high malicious damage to property incidents known as hot spots. Areas which experienced high count numbers over the Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 period are Bellambi, Bulli, Corrimal, Thirroul, Woona, Balgownie, Fairy Meadow, Figtree, Keiraville, Mangerton, Tarrawanna, Towradgi, Wollongong, Berkeley, Coniston, Dapto, Horsley, Koonawarra, Port Kembla, Unanderra, Warrawong and Windang.
- Graph 3.0 shows the top three suburbs with the highest rates per 100,000 population from Oct 2014 to Sept 2015 were Warrawong, Bellambi and Wollongong.
Graph 3: Top Ten Malicious Damage to Property Hot Spot Suburb Rates Per 100,000 population over the Oct 2014 to Sept 2015 period.

**Priority Incident times**

- Malicious Damage to Property incident times all recorded downward trends per year over the Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 period as follows: weekday nights down 10.5%, weekday days down 7.2%, weekend nights down 14.1% and weekend days down 12.8%.

- 57.7% of damage to property incidents occurred in the weekend days as opposed to 42.3% occurring during weekend nights. Conversely, 31.4% of occurred during the weekday days and 68.6% during weekday nights.

- Total number of incidents showed 3597 (58.1%) occurred over weekends whereas 2588 (41.9%) occurred over weekday times.

**Offenders**

- The 3 year trends for adults and juvenile for both males and females damaging property were all steady.

- The number of adult males damaging property over the 3 year period totalled 784 (87.5%) whilst adult female offender numbers were 112 (12.5%).

- The number of child / juvenile offenders numbered 219 (71.3%) for males and 88 (28.7%) for female.
### 4. Anti-social behaviour including harassment and threatening behaviour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General</th>
<th>Priority Incident times</th>
<th>Offenders and Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• In 2014, Wollongong ranked 71st out of all NSW LGAs, better than in 2013 where the LGA ranked 69th but worse than 2012 when Wollongong ranked 83rd.</td>
<td>• Harassment incidents during weekend nights and days and weekday days were steady. Weekday night trends declined 8.5% per year from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015.</td>
<td>• Adult and juvenile offender trends over the 3 year period for both males and females was steady.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The number of anti-social incidents for the LGA from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 was recorded as being steady.</td>
<td>• Crime data showed 889 (35.2%) occurred over the weekend whereas 1635 (64.8%) occurred over the weekday times over the 3 year period.</td>
<td>• Adult offenders were 816 (88.2%) male and 110 (11.8%) female.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Alcohol related harassment incidents fell 11.1% per year from Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 across the LGA.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Male juvenile offenders were 58 (63%) male and 34 (36%) female.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Over Oct 2014 to Sept 2015, suburbs with the highest anti-social rates per 100,000 population were Wollongong followed by Unanderra.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Male victim trends were steady per year whereas adult female victim trends were down 12% per year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** There are no hot spot crime statistics for this offence.

### General

- According to NSW Crime Statistics the trend for anti-social incidents for the LGA was recorded as being steady over the period Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 - totalling 856 (yr. 12/13), 855 (yr. 13/14) and 813 (yr. 14/15). This marries with the trend for the NSW state of also being steady.
- The number of alcohol related harassment incidents fell 11.1% per year over Oct 2012 to Sept 2015 across the LGA. The NSW trend was steady over the same period.
- The top ten suburbs that recorded the highest number of incidents over the 3 year period included Wollongong (475), Dapto (187), Warrawong (150), Berkeley (131), Bellambi (113), Woonona (113), Unanderra (112), Fairy Meadow (103), Port Kembla (101) and Corrimal (86). The 3 year trend for all suburbs was steady. However the rates per 100,000 population shown in Graph 4.0 reveal Warrawong having the highest rate followed by Wollongong and Unanderra.
Graph 4: Top ten suburbs showing incidents of harassment rates per 100,000 population.

Priority Incident Times
- Harassment incident trends over the 3 year period during weekend nights and days and weekday days were steady. Weekday night trends declined 8.5% per year.
- 42.7% of harassment incidents occurred in the weekend days as oppose to 57.3% occurring during weekend nights. Conversely, 70.1% of incidents occurred during the weekday days and 29.9% during weekday nights.
- Total number of incidents showed 889 (35.2%) occurred over weekends whereas 1635 (64.8%) occurred over weekday times.

Offenders
- The 3 year incident trends for adults and juvenile for both males and females committing anti-social behaviour was steady.
- The number of adult males charged for harassment over the 3 year period totalled 816 (88.2%) whilst adult female offenders numbered 110 (11.8%).
- The number of child / juvenile offenders over the same 3 year period was 58 (63%) for male offenders and 34 (36%) for female offenders.

Victims
- The 3 year trend for adult female victims was steady whereas adult male victim trends decline 12% per year.
- The number of adult male harassment victims over the 3 year period totalled 864 (37.6%), whilst adult female harassment victims tallied 1430 (62.4%).
- The numbers of child male harassment victims was 80 (35.2%) and female victims 147 (64.8%).

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
Appendix 2:
Demographic profile for Wollongong LGA

The table below (unless noted otherwise) provides data about people living in the Wollongong LGA, based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics Population and Housing 2011 Census. The information is delivered and maintained by the census data service .id.

### Who We Are?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>192,418 usual resident population (95,247 males and 97,171 females).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of People</strong></td>
<td><strong>Age Distribution</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Median age 38 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In 2011:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 25.3% of the population was aged between 0 and 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 14% were aged 20-29 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 26.3% were aged 30-49 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 18.1% were aged 50-64 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 16.3% were aged over 65 years; compared with the following respective figures for NSW 25.6%, 13.3%, 27.9%, 18.5%, and 14.7%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The largest changes in age structure in Wollongong between 2006 and 2011 were in the age groups:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 60 to 66 (+ 1,687 persons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 50 to 54 (+ 1,666 persons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 85 and over (+ 1,122 persons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 25 to 29 (+ 1,107 persons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diversity: Cultural Identity, Place of Birth, Language Spoken at Home</strong></td>
<td>A total of 4,237 people identified as either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing 2.2% of the total population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21.8% of Wollongong’s population were born overseas and 14.3% were born in a non-English speaking (NES) country with the dominant NES countries being FYR Macedonia, Italy, China and Germany.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.7% spoke a language other than English at home with the most common languages other than English spoken at home being:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Macedonian 2.7% [5,243 persons]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Italian 2.2% [4,170 persons]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Arabic 1.1% [2,169 persons]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mandarin 1.1% [2,063 persons]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Greek 0.9% [1,818 persons]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Spanish 0.9% [1,645 persons]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Serbian 0.8% [1,511 persons]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table continues overleaf.
### Who We Are?

| Income Distribution | Household income is an important indicator of socio-economic status. The amount of income a family generates is linked to a number of factors: the number of workers in the household; the percentage of people unemployed or on other income support benefits, and the type of employment by the household members.

The median household income was $1,101 per week which was $136 less than the NSW median, with 7% of Wollongong total households classed as low income (earning between $0 and $299), compared to 5.9% in NSW.

Median household incomes ranged from a low of $669 in the suburb of Warrawong to a high of $2,029 in the suburbs of Cordeaux Heights, Mt Kembla and Kembla Heights. |
|---|---|
| Housing | In 2011:
- 34.3% of the population fully owned their dwelling.
- 30.1% were purchasing i.e. have a mortgage.
- 29.3% were renting.
- 9.7% were experiencing mortgage stress.
- 31.5% were experiencing rental stress. |
| Family Structure and Household | In 2011:
- 30.3% of families were couple families with child(ren).
- 24.3% couples without children.
- 11.7% one parent families.
- 25% lone person households.

Between 1996 and 2011 the largest changes of household types were:
- lone person ↑ 3934
- couples without children ↑ 2451
- one parent families ↑ 1722. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Who We Are?</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment and Workforce</strong></td>
<td><strong>In 2011, 7% of Wollongong’s labour force was classed as unemployed compared to 5.9% in New South Wales. Wollongong’s workforce is comprised of:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 56% full time workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 35.1% part time workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 22.5% main occupation areas were professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 15.3% technicians and trades workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 14.2% clerical and administrative workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- A total percent of 15.8% of Wollongong’s labour force aged 15-24 years were classed as unemployed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A quarter, (25.7%) of Wollongong’s labour force lives outside the LGA and consequently have to commute from another LGA to Wollongong.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>People with a Disability and Carers</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.8% of the population reported needing assistance with core activities whilst 12.8% of people provided unpaid care.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to Information Technology</strong></td>
<td><strong>In 2011, 71% (compared with 55.1% in 2006) of Wollongong’s households had an internet connection compared to 73.3% in NSW. Broadband connection varied from a low of 44.5% in Warrawong to a high of 83.7% in Cordeaux Heights, Mt Kembla and Kembla Heights.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Attainment and Qualifications</strong></td>
<td><strong>In Wollongong 25% of people were attending an educational institution. Of these, 7.8% were in primary school, 6.4% in secondary school and 8.6% in a tertiary or technical institution.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45.5% of the population identified as having an educational qualification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Homelessness</strong></td>
<td><strong>In 2011 it was estimated there were 524 homeless persons in the LGA.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing: Estimating Homelessness 2011, cat no. 2049</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>University</strong></td>
<td><strong>In 2015, there were 32,700 students enrolled at the University of Wollongong with 13,414 comprising of international students enrolled in Australia and abroad, and 19,286 comprising of Australian nationals.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Source: UOW 2015 Annual Report Main Report, UOW CRICOS: 00102E. Published April 2016</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tourism</strong></td>
<td><strong>Four year annual average travel statistics for Wollongong until September 2013:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 2.4 million domestic daytrip travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 42,300 international visitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 1.28 million International visitor nights with an average stay of 30.3 nights.**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References


NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, NSW Department of Justice, viewed 23 December 2015, 8 and 14 January 2016

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, NSW Department of Justice, Graffiti Facts and Figures, viewed 12 January 2016

Wollongong City Council, November 2015, Perceptions of Safety Survey Key Findings, Wollongong City Council

Wollongong City Council, Annual Plan 2015-16, Wollongong City Council


Wollongong City Council Cultural Plan 2014-2018, Wollongong City Council

Wollongong City Council Community Safety Plan 2012-2016. a crime prevention strategy, Wollongong City Council