



Warringah
Council



Safe Warringah

Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2005 - 2008



Crime Prevention Division
Attorney General's
Department of NSW

Acknowledgements

The Warringah Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2005 – 2008 has been developed with the assistance and information from a range of community partners and businesses. Council would like to thank all those who spoke to us about safety in the Warringah local government area.

Thanks to the following people and organisations who provided material and feedback on the draft Plan:

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Rob van den Blink, Warringah Council
Jodie Atkins, Road Safety Officer, Warringah Council

And many thanks to all those organisations and services who assisted in valuable consultations on crime prevention and safety issues.

Message from the Administrator

One of the basic rights of our community is to feel safe and secure in their homes and their environment. I therefore take great pleasure in introducing the Safe Warringah Plan. Following endorsement by the NSW Attorney General on 21 March 2005, the Safe Warringah Plan will be implemented over the following three years (2005-2008).

The Plan has been developed with the help of some very dedicated and motivated individuals. Over the next three years, Council will implement the Plan by building partnerships with residents, police, government and business to develop coordinated approaches to community safety and crime prevention.

Through a partnership approach and the commitment of the whole community, we hope all residents will see the benefits of the Safe Warringah Plan. I commend the Plan to you and look forward to working with you to achieve its goals.

Executive Summary

The Warringah Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan has been developed in response to community concerns regarding crime and community safety.

While there is a great difference between the levels of reported crime and perceptions about crime in Warringah, Council recognises that fear of crime can have a significant influence upon a person's quality of life and participation in public life.

The SAFE Warringah Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan seeks to promote a whole of community response to community safety and crime prevention and forge partnerships with residents, police, government and businesses, to develop coordinated and preventative approaches to these issues.

The aim of the Plan is to reduce the incidence and fear of crime in the Warringah Local Government Area.

In the development of this plan, Council has listened to the community and service providers who have expressed their concerns about crime in the area and compared their concerns with crime statistics.

The Crime Profile indicates crime in Warringah is lower than the State average in all cases, except PCA (drink driving) where the Northern Beaches is the second highest in the State and the highest in the Sydney Metropolitan Region. The community consultations, however, do reveal community concern regarding crime in Warringah.

An analysis of this process has resulted in the development of four key areas to be addressed in the Plan. Each of the priority areas has a series of goals:

1. Malicious damage and anti-social behaviour

To reduce malicious damage to property in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

To reduce the factors that influence anti-social behaviour in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

2. Theft from motor vehicles, Break & Enter and theft of personal property

To reduce theft from motor vehicles in Warringah

To reduce break and enter offences in Warringah

To reduce personal property theft in Warringah

3. Assaults - Violence

To increase awareness of domestic violence as an offence in Warringah

To investigate the needs of older women living in a violent or potentially violent situation in Warringah

To reduce the vulnerability of young people out late at night in Warringah

4. Perception of crime and fear of crime

To reduce Warringah resident's perception of crime

To investigate older people's perception of crime

To encourage reporting of safety issues to Council and Police by Warringah residents

The plan will be implemented over the following three years (2005-2008) and progress on the implementation of the plan will be reported to the Community Safety Committee on a quarterly basis.

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Warringah's plan will be reviewed annually and evaluated at the end of the three years.

Quantitative evaluation will provide an indication of broad statistical trends through a post Community Survey and updated crime statistics.

Qualitative evaluation will be used to provide a more in-depth understanding of the social context through interviews, observations and case studies.

Of particular interest will be any changes to the Warringah community's perception of crime, which will be measured through a community survey as part of the evaluation of the plan.

As an accredited 'Safe Community' by the World Health Organisation, Warringah Council is committed to maintaining the low crime rate and working closely with our partners and the community to improve the rate further.

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Introduction

Warringah is centrally located on Sydney's Northern Beaches enjoying a temperate climate, is surrounded by spectacular natural bushland and is home to some 135,000 residents with a diverse range of business and light industry.

Warringah is a community that values its quality of life and strives to care for its special bush and beach environment.

The SAFE Warringah Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan has been developed in response to community concerns regarding crime and community safety.

While there is a great difference between the levels of reported crime, as indicated in the Crime Profile, and perceptions about crime in Warringah, Council recognises that fear of crime can have a significant influence upon a person's quality of life and their subsequent participation in public life.

Warringah Council has had a long and active involvement with the community and businesses in relation to safety issues. As a member of the SHOROC Regional Organisation of Councils, Warringah Council became an accredited WHO (World Health Organisation) Safe Community in 1999.

A Community Safety Committee was established in 2002 to assist Council to achieve its Health and Safety Program Goal 'to achieve a safe and healthy Warringah for all'. The Committee works with stakeholders and partners in a coordinated approach to community safety.

The SAFE Warringah Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan seeks to promote a whole of community response to community safety and crime prevention and forge partnerships with residents, police, government and businesses, to develop coordinated and preventative approaches to these issues.

The plan will also assist Council to include safety and crime prevention objectives and crime impact statements in the annual business planning process so that safety becomes a core value of the organisation.

This plan is not the only answer to crime prevention in Warringah. Council acknowledges the work and commitment of our partners, particularly the police, in making Warringah a safe place for all.

Council's Community and Cultural Services Unit will drive the implementation of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan with the support of other Units including Parks and Reserves, Construction and Maintenance, Policy Planning and Commissioning and Environmental Health.

The Community Safety Committee will act in the capacity of advisory body providing ongoing feedback on the implementation of the plan.

Aim of the Plan

To reduce the incidence and fear of crime in the Warringah Local Government Area.

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Community Safety Committee

The composition and size of the Committee aims to achieve representation from the Warringah Community including residents, government departments, community services, clubs and groups.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Position</u>
Ms	Susan	Gomola	Warringah Council	Community Safety Officer
Supt	Dennis	Clifford	Northern Beaches Local Area Command	Police
Inspector	David	Walton	Northern Beaches Local Area Command	Police
Senior Constable	Julie	Williams	Northern Beaches Local Area Command	Police
Ms	Melissa	Palermo	NSW Health	Health Services
Ms	Jann	Pattison	Dept School Education	Education
Mr	Peter	Young	Dept School Education	Education
Ms	Claire	Cathcart	Youth / Warringah Youth Advisory Committee	Youth
Mr	James	King	Youth / Warringah Youth Advisory Committee	Youth
Mr	Simon	Brushfield	Dee Why Chamber of Commerce	President- Chamber of Commerce
Mr	Adam	Johnston		People who have a disability
Mr	Frank H	Gleason	Sporting/Services Clubs	Other clubs
Ms	Marianne	van de Voorde	Community Services	Community Services Volunteer
Ms	Marlene	Regimbal	Narrabeen Lakes Chamber of Commerce	Aged Services
Ms	Amanda	Watkins	Manly Drug Education and Counselling Service	Drug and Alcohol
Mr	Mark	Bayfield	Bayfield Hotels	Hoteliers
Mr	Robert	van den Blink	Warringah Council	Youth & Recreation Officer

Development of the Plan

The Warringah Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan is a local plan to address and prevent crime. It covers the entire local government area, which incorporates a large variety of people and needs, including those of residents, businesses and service providers.

The Plan aims to draw together a number of initiatives that Council has undertaken over the past five years, as well as develop other programs and projects with our community partners. The development of this plan has involved the following steps:

1. Review of existing literature and latest reports into crime prevention throughout NSW and Australia
2. Review of recent publications relating to community perceptions and concerns in Warringah
3. Conducting community consultations
4. Review of current initiatives
5. Developing a crime profile of the Warringah Local Government Area
6. Analysing the results of these investigations
7. Identify priority areas for action
8. Developing a set of draft strategies for implementation over three years (based on evidence-based crime prevention projects in consultation with community partners)
9. Public display of the draft Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan
10. The incorporation of community comments
11. Development of the final plan

Literature Review NSW/ Australia and Review of Recent Local Publications

The extensive literature review was completed prior to the development of the plan and is available on request.

The review revealed that traditionally crime prevention was the responsibility of the police and the justice system through deterrence, with an emphasis on detection; punishment and efforts to reform convicted criminals. (McCamley 1992).

Contemporary crime prevention and improving public safety recognises the need for a broader approach and developing public, private and community partnerships at a local level to devise and implement crime prevention strategies. (McCamley 1992).

Communities now expect that their local government will assume some level of responsibility for initiating or directing action for crime issues that are seen to be affecting local amenity and quality of life. Local government is increasingly seen to be a player in the development and implementation of community level crime prevention programs. (Margaret Shaw 2001).

Successful crime prevention action requires the coordinated effort of many agencies in partnership with community and business groups. (Crime Reduction Matters, 2004). There is widespread recognition that a two-pronged approach of social development and environmental design is required to address crime.

Social development programs address the risk and protective factors that can influence social and criminal behaviour. (Nexus Management Consulting 2001). Risk factors can include family issues such as abuse, neglect, social isolation, economic stress and unemployment. (National Crime Prevention, 1999). Protective factors can include adequate living conditions, positive values, attachment to family and adults, guidance in problem solving and having cultural identity and pride. (Standing Committee on Law & Justice, 1999)

Environmental design principles are used to identify physical characteristics that provide opportunities for crime to occur. The principles focus on territorial reinforcement, natural surveillance and natural access control. Improvements such as lighting, signage, rubbish removal, sightliness, access control and visibility remove opportunities for criminal behaviour and signal to both residents and potential offenders that the areas are cared for and owned. (Crowe, 1991)

Fear of crime, while not easily quantifiable or tangible, can have a very real impact on people, affecting their sense of security, confidence and connection to the rest of the community. Research suggests a number of possible reasons for fear of crime. These include the influence of the media, previous experience of crime, feelings of increased vulnerability and fear of particular types of crime, for example, the fear of sexual assault for women and lack of physical strength for older people. (Weatherburn et al, 1996, The Safe Women's project, 1998).

The major issues identified in the literature review are reflected throughout the plan.

Recent Council publications were also reviewed, including the State of Warringah Report 2002, Customer Survey 2002 and Warringah Council Social Plan 2002 – 2004.

When Warringah residents were consulted on issues of concern in 2002, **personal safety was rated in the top ten concerns**. In the same community consultations 57.6% of residents reported that they are satisfied with their personal safety in the Warringah Council area. Less than half are satisfied with the Council's services in terms of managing **vandalism and graffiti**.

Generally the older a resident becomes the less satisfied they become. Sixty one percent of those surveyed were satisfied that **public areas are safe**.

The social plan consultations revealed that although crime is low there is a community perception that the local area is less safe and that crime is increasing. **The state of Warringah Report highlights that crime is low in Warringah compared to the rest of New South Wales, but due to a higher level of media coverage of crimes in Warringah within the local media, residents could well be led to believe that there is a greater incident of crime occurring within the area.**

The Warringah Local Government Area also has two local newspapers, the *Manly Daily* and the *Northern Beaches Weekender*. The *Manly Daily* is published five days a week and has a circulation of 91,470 (CAB audit October 2001 – March 2002).

Community Consultations

Community Safety Providers - Workshop

The S.A.F.E (Safety Awareness for Everyone) Warringah Workshop held in November 2004, was a partnership initiative of Warringah Council and Northern Sydney Health. Community safety providers participated in a workshop to develop directions, solutions and strategies to improve community safety and partnership initiatives in Warringah. Activities included a mapping exercise on safety in Warringah. The second stage of the workshop is to develop an intervention campaign targeting the Warringah community.

All participants (30) at the SAFE Warringah Workshop were requested to complete a safety survey. There was a sixty three percent response rate. The analysis **indicated that poor transport access, especially at night, is a key safety issue in Warringah.** Improving access to transport was likely to **reduce the incidence of deaths and injuries from drink driving, drink walking, and assaults, as well as to reduce the isolation of peripheral groups in accessing essential services.** Fragmentation of government agencies and lack of leadership were identified as the key barriers to progress.

General Public (Adults over 16 years) – Community Survey

A student research group from the University of Technology, Sydney was commissioned by Warringah Council to research the perceptions of crime and safety within Warringah. Primary research was conducted through the completion of an Internet-based questionnaire and a hard copy questionnaire, which was distributed by local community centres and libraries in the Warringah area. There were a total of 134 respondents (mainly between 25- 64 years) who participated in the questionnaire during a two-week period.

From an analysis of the survey results, **it is reasonable to conclude that Warringah is perceived to be a safe place by over half of the participants.** However, participants were aware that unsafe areas do exist in the community, but they simply avoid them.

The most popular influence that shapes the perceptions of crime and safety is observation and personal experience, however only **37 percent of respondents had personally experienced a situation where they felt at risk.**

In order to gain a full understanding of Warringah Council's resident's perceptions of crime and safety in the area, it was necessary to discover what they felt that the main crime issues are.

The top two crime issues as identified by the survey were theft of private property or vehicles and defacing public property, are also identified in the actual Warringah Crime statistics for that time period. (Warringah Council Community Safety Committee, 2002). Therefore it is reasonable to assume that the perceptions held by respondents in this survey were true to a certain extent for that time period.

The data also reveals that public space does play a large role in influencing community perceptions of crime and safety. The feelings of safety a person holds for a particular public space can dictate their feelings of safety for a whole area. **Twenty five percent of respondents indicate that the derelict appearance of streetscape is the most powerful indicator of an unsafe area, which includes factors such as graffiti, vandalism and litter.**

A further significant issue that has been highlighted through this survey is that **one of the primary causes of fear of crime is the misinterpretation of the activities of young people in public places.**

Culturally Linguistically Diverse Communities

As part of the development of the Northern Beaches Peninsula Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Plan Manly Warringah and Pittwater Council conducted a series of consultations throughout September and October 2003. These consultations were held with service providers and community groups. Focus groups were held with the Indonesian Community, Tibetan Community and the Serbian Community.

Whilst consultation revealed that CALD communities have a greater perception of safety on the northern beaches than other areas of Sydney, there were a few safety issues raised mostly related to discrimination. The Indonesian community, in particular, commented that their children are often **victims of racism** in local schools. This included bullying on the school buses. Service providers also raised the need to **involve CALD communities in traffic and alcohol related projects**.

Aboriginal Communities

The 2001 census reported that there were 420 people (0.33 %) (218 males and 202 females) who identify as being of indigenous origin living in the Warringah area. The review of the Northern Sydney Aboriginal Social Plan identified that the main issues for Aboriginal people living in the Northern Sydney area were the **stolen generation, accommodation, heritage and culture, education, health** and coordinating a response to Aboriginal community issues in Northern Sydney. The Northern Sydney Aboriginal Support Worker confirmed this.

Women

A Social Needs Assessment for women in Warringah was conducted in 1999. During the consultation process, safety and security were raised as one of the most important issues for women alongside clean air and the environment. A typical comment was "*a safe and secure environment for me and my children*"

Many of the women in consultation forums commented on a decline in perceived personal safety in the Warringah area in recent times. This was variously associated with the increasing population density, lack of recreational opportunities for young people and a rise in the level of drug and alcohol related crime in the area. Some expressed concerns about **their personal safety in shopping centres during the day, with older women commenting on recent bag snatches and other problems in Dee Why**.

Some women commented that seeing more police on the streets was a good thing, but raised concerns about 'building up' law enforcement.

Consultations were held with staff from the Women's Refuge in Dee Why, the Northern Sydney Violence Against Women Specialist and the Northern Beaches Local Area Command Domestic Violence Liaison Officer.

The women's refuge started in 1975 and has developed according to community need over the years. According to statistics kept at the refuge, the **numbers of women accessing the service are increasing**. The majority of women using the refuge come from the Warringah area, particularly Dee Why, Narrabeena, Killarney Heights, Collaroy and Frenchs Forest.

In the last five years a trend has emerged where women are leaving violent situations earlier with fewer or younger children.

Although Warringah is an area with a higher social economic/ higher income, housing stress is high, often requiring two incomes to afford a mortgage. Increasing property values pose difficulties for

women who want to claim any pension assistance to move away from their home, as property values (assets) are taken into account. Many women, therefore, stay in a violent situation rather than being forced to move out of the area, disrupting schooling for children and isolating them from local social support networks.

The Domestic Violence Liaison Officer at the Northern Beaches Local Area Command reported that out of eighty commands in New South Wales the **Northern Beaches rates twenty one for domestic violence.**

Reporting of domestic violence has slightly increased since the position was formally identified in 2001.

Further community education is required to develop an **acknowledgement in the community that domestic violence is a crime and that there are services available to assist women and children leaving violent situations.** The Northern Beaches Police continue to promote the reporting of domestic violence through media campaigns and talking to community groups and organisations.

Statistics collected by the police indicate that Thursdays and Sundays are the two days when the majority of domestic violence incidents occur. The majority of cases are from the Brookvale/Dee Why area.

Assaults of older women are also becoming an increasing issue. The refuge gets at least two calls a week from women, who fear or have been abused by relatives, requiring assistance in court. Again, property values have an impact, as, in some cases, older children want to acquire their parent's valuable property. More research is needed to determine the needs for these women, particularly with the anticipated significant increase in the ageing population in Warringah.

Police reported that they are more regularly being called to incidences of violence against older women where they are in the capacity of carer for their child with a mental illness.

Older women tend to not call the police or access services and little support is provided once they have been to court about a violent situation. The refuge is unable to accommodate women who are single (including older women).

The Women and Children Needs Assessments also reported that women in various forums commented on the link **between perceived declining personal safety in the area and the reliance on limited public transport**, with many, whether seniors or younger women, commenting that they do not go out at night on public transport.

There is **a high percentage of young women drink driving.** A safer way for young women to get home from their entertainment destination is needed, as well as more information for young women on safe travel at night.

Older People

Warringah has the highest proportion of persons aged 55 years and over in the Northern Sydney Region. Of a total population of 124,299 the 1996 census indicated that 28% are over 75 compared to 25% in Sydney & NSW.

Statistics show that the chances of being a victim of crime actually reduces as people get older, but even a minor crime can have serious consequences for long term confidence and quality of life of older people, resulting in them being isolated in their home.

Further research on perceptions of crime and fear of crime for older people will be completed as part of the Crime Prevention Plan.

Youth

The many natural attributes of the northern beaches – the sun, the sand, the surf, are often alluded to as all that young people need for a full and satisfying life. In fact young people around today have grown up in the technological age, sometimes without significant parental involvement and role modelling. (Warringah Youth Strategy, 2000).

Young people need to feel that they have a place in a family (either traditional or non-traditional), and a sense of connection to the wider community, if their lives are to feel meaningful and useful. A sense of belonging is linked to a sense of hope for the future. (Richard Eckersley, 1999).

Warringah Council endeavours to consult with youth in the area through the Warringah Youth Advisory Committee, which meets monthly. It has approximately twenty members with a broad representation of age, gender and demographics.

Consultations and discussions coordinated by Council's Youth Workers have revealed that the main issues for young people in the area are;

1. Appropriate **places to 'hang out'** for fourteen to seventeen year olds (they are too old for children's activities and too young for pubs). This is also the age group where the drop out rate increases for organised sport and increases for more independent activities such as surfing or skate boarding. They are also seeking more independence from parental control and may experiment with alcohol and other drugs.
2. A need for more **youth entertainment** – dance parties/bands etc. especially at night, and emerging youth orientated recreation facilities, such as skate areas, half court basketball, BMX and mountain biking.
3. **Transport** to get to and from venues. Young people end up drink walking or getting a lift with someone (resulting in overcrowding a car or a person driving who is intoxicated). Poor transport between localities within Warringah has resulted in **groups of young people gathering in parks and reserves hanging out and in some cases drinking alcohol.**
4. **A reluctance in reporting crimes** such as being 'rolled' i.e. a young person being attacked by other young people and property or money being taken. (The staff at Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre also raised this issue).
5. **Lack of youth specific services means young people are often referred to generic adult services, which may not be appropriate. i.e. Mental Health Services.**

This information is verified in the Warringah Youth Strategy 2000-2004. Warringah Council Youth Services are working on these issues and will be vital to the success of youth related strategies within the plan.

Youth suicide and self-harm has become an increasing issue over the past five years. Although there is a widely held belief that there is a higher than average youth suicide rate on the Northern Beaches, statistics from the Department of Health indicate that this is not the case. The Northern Beaches has a lower than average youth suicide rate. None the less, each life lost is tragic and strategies need to be in place to promote education and resilience.

The Family Support Worker raised the issue that support services for young people and their families in this area are quite good, but there is a lack of knowledge and information about services. Family structures and parenting requirements are very different today compared with the previous generations. Young people are far more vocal in their views and opinions and are prepared through the school system to expect to be heard.

Furthermore, during the consultation process with young people regarding the 'Out of Harms Way Agreement', there was **general agreement among the group that more needs to be done to improve communication between young people and their parents.**

In many cases what some parents are very concerned and worried about is actually very normal for young people today. This was supported by consultations completed by the Family Support Worker on arrival in her position three years ago.

Alcohol misuse by young teenagers is believed to be a result of mirroring what society is doing. This is a major issue that needs to be addressed with parents and teenagers. There are issues around negative portrayal of young people in the local media. The activities of a very small minority impact on young people as a whole through stereotyping. Fashionable American style dress tends to reinforce this stereotyping.

The Families First Project Officer reconfirmed the importance of **including youth in planning, particularly open space planning**. Research shows that the more young people are involved in planning their open space the more likely it is to be respected. This is certainly the case with legal graffiti walls, where these walls tend not to be tagged.

Juniors – Expression Through Art Kindy & Year 5

Children at a local primary school were asked to describe what safety means to them through artwork (see front cover). The majority of students focused on the emergency services, road safety and water safety, which reflects the education messages being presented to them. It is important to note that these children feel safe in the presence of physical structures. They made comments like; *"The lollipop man keeps us safe on the Zebra crossing."* *" Lifesavers keep you safe from sharks and from drowning and get in the boat to save you if you are in trouble."* *" The ambulance can rush us to the hospital if we have an accident. The siren warns the drivers to move over."*

In the Social Needs Assessment for women and children held in 1999, primary aged children were very clear about the places they feel 'safe' and those they do not. The report concluded that in planning for safe play areas and public places, clear attention needs to be given **to sight lines, adequate lighting, casual surveillance, etc.**

A large number of children spoke of their fears about safety and many of these were associated with **noise at night, dogs and older children. Bullying by older children** was particularly an issue in the Dee Why area, with children relating experiences about older children **demanding money from them or teasing them.**

Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre

The Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre (MDECC) is a non-government organisation (NGO) based on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

MDECC has specific programs designed to reduce drug-related harm targeting young people, parents, and families. MDECC has been particularly successful in developing and implementing peer education models for both young people and parents.

An interview was held with the Intervention Program Coordinator and a Drug and Alcohol Counsellor.

A general snapshot of the service showed that in 2003 the majority of clients were between fifteen and twenty years of age and lived in Warringah. Of the new clients referred to the service, forty-one percent were from Warringah in 2002 and thirty-five percent in 2003.

In regard to drugs and alcohol, the interviewees highlighted the importance of community education about the safe use of drugs and alcohol versus zero tolerance. The main **drug of choice of their clients was either alcohol or cannabis.**

Many of the clients using the service have been affected by domestic violence, particularly in the Cromer, Dee Why, Brookvale and Narraweena area. Many young women require support to make healthier choices in life, for example decisions around drug and alcohol, sex and protection

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against potential violent situations. Self-esteem in young people is another important factor that needs addressing as this is a common theme in the consumption of drugs and alcohol.

Other issues raised were the problems of **spiked drinks, safe entertainment and journeys home for young people, and communication and support for parents.**

Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre staff are committed to working with Warringah Council on the implementation of the plan.

Council's Construction and Maintenance Department

The staff at Council's depot reported that approximately **\$160,000 is spent per year on maintenance related to malicious damage.** A new customer reporting system has been implemented which enables tracking of all graffiti damage. To date, since 1 October 2003 to 24 February 2004 thirty-four (34) graffiti removal requests have been received. This will now be monitored yearly.

Construction and Maintenance staff continue to trial methods to reduce potential vandalism. An example has been not providing toilet seats, as these have been smashed or removed.

In the last twelve to eighteen months a number of the Council's community centres have been subjected to acts of vandalism. Community vehicles parked at one centre had windscreens broken and lights smashed. One centre has been lost due to alleged arson. Community centres in the area are generally ageing buildings and some remain in a state of neglect and poor repair. They are in isolated positions and are not used regularly at night. This escalating issue is becoming of greater concern to Council, Police and to members of the community that live near, use or manage the centres.

Council's Rangers

Abandoned vehicles in the area are a major concern for Rangers. These cars often end up being burnt out and make the street look uncared for. Council spends up to \$30,000 per year to tow away **abandoned vehicles**, not including staff costs. Seventeen hundred cars were abandoned in the area last year. One of the major obstacles is that if the owner of the vehicle is known, Rangers cannot remove it even if it is unregistered and it then becomes a police matter. A change in the law may assist this process by reducing demand on the police and allowing Rangers to take all vehicles away.

There are sixteen Alcohol Free Zones in Warringah. Following a report from Council and Police with evidence of irresponsible consumption of alcohol on roads and footpaths in specific areas, Council's Compliance Unit implemented these zones.

The main problems reported regarding the zones was **the lack of a significant fine.** It was agreed that an evaluation of the Alcohol Free Zones would be very useful.

Warringah Council Community Safety Committee Workshop

A workshop was held with members of the Committee to discuss the top crimes in the area covering both recorded crime and perceived crime and safety issues. The Committee also discussed some of the perceived causes of crimes and other safety issues that needed addressing.

The top seven recorded crime incidents for the Warringah LGA are: stealing, break and enter, malicious damage, motor vehicle theft, street offences, assaults and drug related crime.

Community members of the Committee believed that **malicious damage was often unreported crime** and much greater than police statistics revealed. Alcohol and drugs were seen to be the common link with the majority of crimes. Changes in family structure and family breakdown were also suggested as a cause for many young people becoming involved in criminal activity.

The Committee acknowledged the importance of working with Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre to develop educational programs, the courts on custodial programs and Youth Services on support programs.

The safety of young people who have been drinking, walking home at night and the lack of safe ways to get home at night were raised as important issues to be addressed. The opening hours of hotels, education and enforcement issues around licensed premises and increased police presence at trouble spots were recommended for further consideration.

Improved signage and education of beachgoers were recommended as a potential method to prevent beach theft and theft from cars parked at the beach.

Overall, Committee members are committed to the development of the Crime Prevention Plan and to focus and prioritise the work of Council, the Committee and partners to make a difference in the Warringah Area.

Department of Community Services

An interview with a representative from the NSW Department of Community Services confirmed that the information collected through consultations was consistent with her data.

Other issues raised were regarding people with disabilities (including mental illness) who are more likely to be victims of crime, particularly violence in the community and at home. Women with disabilities are especially vulnerable to domestic and family violence and require accessible information and support.

State Transit Authority (Safety Department) and Forest Coachlines

Consultations were held with staff from the two key public transport operators in the area. Both operators reported that safety, especially for night services, is becoming an increasing issue.

Over time young people have become much more mobile, travelling further for their entertainment. Partnerships are vital as buses are unable to provide a door-to-door service.

There is a need to encourage links with the taxi industry and focus on multi input solution project management. For example, **late night buses** may have different stops/routes, depending on need eg. Forest Coachlines have implemented a direct service from the City to Davidson on Friday nights (usually the services stop at Chatswood).

To increase the number of people using public transport it was advised that potential and existing passengers **need safe clean bus services, stops and efficient services**. Safer by design principles need to be applied to all major bus stops in the area. Dee Why bus stop (north bound on Pittwater Road), a major interchange, is not an appealing place to wait for a bus.

Strategies should include the use of graffiti resistant paint and the removal of any graffiti immediately.

Malicious damage done to buses, for example, the **throwing of rocks has been a major issue for State Transit over the past few years**. Although this issue has decreased since more targeted policing, there are still problems with young drunk people fighting between themselves on the buses late at night.

Statistics collected by the STA show that Dee Why and Manly Vale are amongst the highest in the region for costs by suburb for Malicious damage from April 2003 to April 2004.

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Forest Coachlines operators have **experienced antisocial behaviour at Forest Way Shops. Friday and Saturday nights are when the majority of antisocial behaviour occurs, particularly between Chatswood and the Northern Beaches.**

Forest Coachlines' yard at Terry Hills has been broken into twice in the last twelve months.

Both operators have a security response policy, linked to the Police Service.

Public transport is an integral component of community life on the peninsular. A holistic approach to safety and security on buses and around public transport infrastructure is required to ensure it remains a viable and accessible asset for the community.

RTA

An interview was held with Council's Road Safety Officer to ascertain the road safety issues in Warringah. Council's road safety vision is to achieve a reduction in the incidence and severity of all road crashes through the development of community owned road safety education programs. Issues such as **speeding, drink driving (second highest rate in NSW), pedestrian safety and occupant restraints are the main focus areas for Warringah's road safety program.**

Warringah's road safety issues and the identification of vulnerable road user groups are based on annual reviews of Warringah's accident data and through regular consultation with the RTA, NSW Police, Warringah Council's Traffic Committee and other key stakeholders. Through ongoing consultation, a number of strategies are developed and presented in Council's Annual Road Safety Action Plan. This plan will relate to the Crime Prevention Plan, particularly when there are opportunities to work together, for example on Safe Public Transport and Drink Driving Projects.

Licensing Police

The Licensing Police reported a good rapport with the licensees in the area. Most of the venues close at midnight, a small number with approved licences, stay open until 3am. The Police work closely with security at local hotels. For example, a combined campaign on fake identification was held in November/December 2003. This campaign reduced the number of fake identifications presented at all hotels in the area, therefore reducing the number of underage drinking.

For November, 2003 there were 26 tickets issued to minors for possessing or consuming and 38 fake identifications confiscated.

Specific forms for juvenile detection have been developed in consultation with licensees, as well as delegated 'failure to quit' forms. The forms are for the Licensees or secretaries to complete and forward to police to take action. This serves to save police attending the licensed premises for minor matters and encourages the Licensees to take responsibility.

Alcohol related crime occurring in venues is dealt with swiftly by police, licensee and security, resulting in well-run venues. Assaults around licensed venues are still occurring, mainly on Friday and Saturday nights. Regular patrols of hot spot area, including the enforcement of Alcohol Free Zones, are undertaken to prevent assaults and anti social behaviour. The police are committed to working with licensees and Council to deal with this issue.

The Licensing Police have organised and chaired the Liquor Licensing Consultative Committee for the last three years, which meets regularly. The committee is about to implement changes to the structure and focus of the committee, which includes elections for a board with a licensee chairing the Committee.

Police are regularly called to deal with underage drinking in public places. Known hot spots include Plateau Park, Freshwater Reserves, Cromer Community Centre, St Mathews Farm, Melwood Oval, Lionel Watts Oval, Forestville shops, Glenrose Shopping Centre and Curl Curl Community Centre.

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Three hundred and nineteen infringement notices have been issued to underage drinkers during the last twelve months, eleven to adults providing alcohol to minors and twenty-two breaches of the liquor supply act.

Licensing police reported the need for further education of the community on sales of alcohol to minors and what 'failure to quit' means.

Overall, police believe that the underage drinking problem has remained at a consistent level and has not increased in the last five years. Anecdotal evidence has revealed that since the 'Safe Party Pak' has been introduced incidences of parties getting out of control have reduced.

Chamber of Commerce

Discussions with the Chamber of Commerce representative indicated a low level of actual crime. Despite this, many business owners have a perception that crime rates against local businesses are high. This perception is therefore seen as a major issue to be dealt with, particularly negative media stories.

Northern Beaches Neighbourhood Service Inc (NBNS)

A consultation was held with ten staff working at the Northern Beaches Neighbourhood Centre. Representatives from HACC services, Easy Care Gardening, Carers Network, Wesley Mission Gambling Counselling Service, Volunteers Referral Service, Neighbourhood Centre and the NBNS Manager attended.

The main issue for concern for the group was **personal safety**. Women in general were reported as not feeling safe. They felt uneasy when going to the bank, unsafe when walking alone or leaving the building, particularly in the evening.

The elderly were also seen as particularly vulnerable. Examples given were that elderly people in the area are afraid of being "ripped off" by local tradespeople so don't maintain their property. **A staff member had witnessed an elderly resident having their bag snatched in the car park opposite the centre.**

Elderly clients of the centre have been the target of anti-social behaviour, for example, repeated breaking of letter-boxes or the use of their property as a short cut.

The centre staff also regularly sees neighbourhood disputes that escalate to a level where both or one party feel afraid for their safety.

Fear of property theft and vandalism were also among the key issues of discussion. The centre has been subject to break and enters three times in the last 12 months. The last time the centre was left in a state of disarray. An alarm has now been installed but staff are now very aware of their security and do not feel as safe in their workplace. To add to this, graffiti which had included threats and expletives had also been an issue in recent times.

In the last twelve months staff at the centre have witnessed an elderly person having their bag snatched in the car park opposite the centre and a group of girls hitting a driver who failed to stop at the pedestrian crossing.

Some suggestions for the causes and fear of crime included the fact that many people don't know everyone in their street and often elderly people's neighbours are at work leaving them feeling more vulnerable. Poor maintenance of property may result in a property looking unkempt and vulnerable to crime.

Other comments included; **people on the street with a mental illness who exhibited challenging behaviour, were found to be both vulnerable and a concern to the general public.** Staff had

received reports from families of mentally ill individuals, **that there was very little support or backup when dealing with incidents of challenging behaviour, assault and property damage.**

Perception of crime was a real issue, as feedback from their clients is that they believe that crime has dramatically increased and personal safety and properties were at risk. Often this comment is related to what they have read in the *Manly Daily*.

There was a view amongst the group that there is a lack of police support, because they 'can't' do anything rather than 'won't' do anything. This is despite Police Policy that if people commit crime and police obtain evidence of this, Police will take action i.e. arrest and charge.

Crime Profile Report

Description of Warringah LGA

Location:

The Warringah Local Government Area is located 10 kms north of the Sydney central business district on Sydney's Northern Beaches. Warringah is home to approximately 132,000 residents. Bordered by national parks, it covers approximately 150 square kilometres, including 59 square kilometres of bushland and reserve. There are 185 hectares of coastal foreshores including sand, lagoons, headlands and dunes, spanning nine beaches from the northern edge of Queenscliff in the south, to North Narrabeen in the north.

Demographics:

The following information was gathered using the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population for Warringah 2001 and compared with census information for New South Wales 2001.

Population:

On Census night 2001 there were 128, 839 people counted in Warringah. This represents 63,119 males and 65,720 females.

Age:

The median age of residents was 37 years. 104,995 people are aged over 15 years (81% of total population). 18,630 people are aged over 65 years (14.5% of total population)

The median age of residents in NSW as a whole is 35 years with 13.1% of the total population being over 65 years.

Birthplace:

In Warringah 26.1% of the population were born overseas. Of those born overseas, the three main countries of birth were:

United Kingdom:	9614 (7.5%)
New Zealand:	3642 (2.9%)
Italy:	2014 (1.6%)

In NSW 23.4% of the population were born overseas and the three main countries of birth were United Kingdom, New Zealand and China.

Language Spoken at home:

English was stated as the only language spoken at home by 103,578 people (81.2%), as compared with 75.7% for NSW as a whole. The three most common languages spoken at home other than English in the 2001 Census were:

Italian:	3249 (2.5%)
Chinese Languages:	2933 (2.3%)
Serbian:	791 (0.6%)

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People of Indigenous Origin:

There were 420 people (0.3%) who identified as being of Indigenous origin (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander). This compares with 1.9% of the total NSW population.

Level of Education:

	<u>Warringah</u>	<u>NSW</u>
Postgraduate Degree, Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate:	4074 (3.9%)	3.4%
Bachelor Degree:	13562 (13.1%)	10.1%
Advanced Diploma, Diploma or Certificate:	28580 (27.5%)	22.7%

Occupation:

During the week prior to Census night 2001, 66,813 people in Warringah were employed representing 96.5% of the labour force. This compares with 92.8% of the NSW labour force being employed. Of these the greatest proportion of the population were employed as:

	<u>Warringah</u>	<u>NSW</u>
Professionals	14040 (21%)	19.1%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	11378 (17%)	16.5%
Associate Professionals	8799 (13.2%)	11.6%

Individual Income:

The median weekly individual income for people aged 15 years and over in the 2001 Census was \$500 - \$599. This is significantly higher than the median weekly income for NSW which is \$300 - \$399.

Method of Travel to Work:

The majority of people – 41,037 (61.4%) in Warringah travelled to work by car, either as the driver or as a passenger. This compares with 60.3% of the total NSW residents who travel by car.

Families and Households:

In the 2001 Census, there were 17,169 couple families with children (which comprised 49.2% of all families in occupied private dwellings) compared with 47.8% in NSW, 12,723 couple families without children (36.5%) compared with 34.9% in NSW, 4,368 one parent families (12.5%) compared with 15.5% in NSW and 623 other families (1.8%) which is the same percentage for total NSW.

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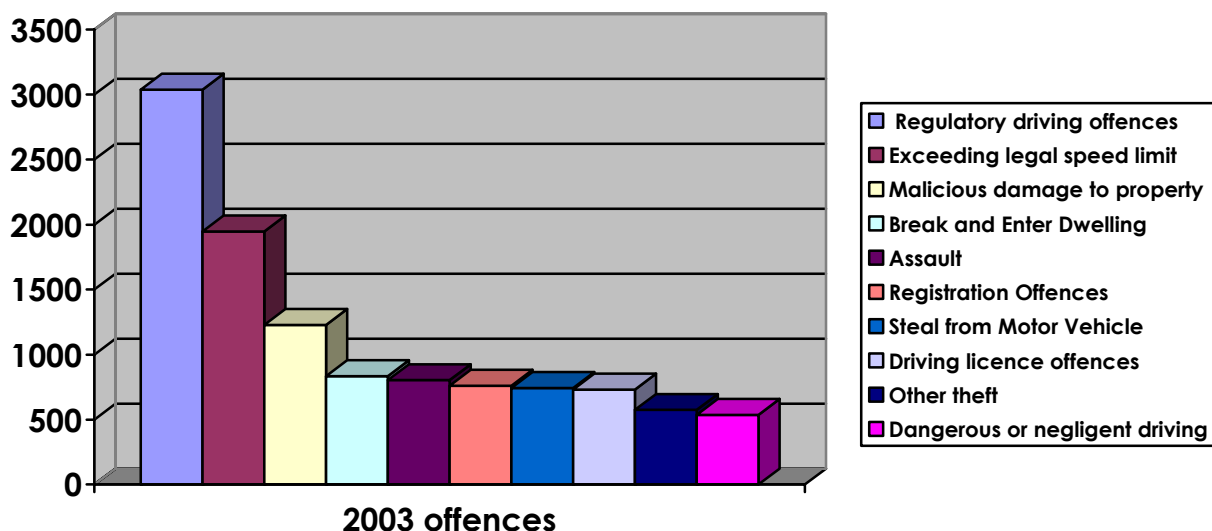
Criminal Statistics

Ten Most Commonly Recorded Criminal Incidents in Warringah 1998 - 2002					
Type of Offence	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Other driving offences <i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	258 <u>194.9</u>	246 <u>184.1</u>	665 <u>493.6</u>	6604 <u>4863.4</u>	6697 <u>4931.9</u>
Malicious Damage to Property <i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	1207 <u>912.0</u>	1247 <u>933.4</u>	1400 <u>1039.2</u>	1608 <u>1184.2</u>	1261 <u>928.6</u>
Steal from Motor Vehicle <i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	1428 <u>1078.9</u>	1178 <u>881.7</u>	1092 <u>810.5</u>	1386 <u>1020.7</u>	1154 <u>849.8</u>
Break and Enter Dwelling <i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	910 <u>687.6</u>	1039 <u>777.7</u>	1074 <u>797.2</u>	914 <u>673.1</u>	835 <u>614.9</u>
Other theft <i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	767 <u>579.5</u>	859 <u>643</u>	1026 <u>761.6</u>	867 <u>638.5</u>	744 <u>547.9</u>
Assault <i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	536 <u>405</u>	547 <u>409.4</u>	558 <u>414.2</u>	556 <u>409.5</u>	663 <u>488.3</u>
Fraud <i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	598 <u>451.8</u>	398 <u>297.9</u>	363 <u>269.4</u>	527 <u>388.1</u>	512 <u>377.1</u>
Break and Enter Non-Dwelling <i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	759 <u>573.5</u>	663 <u>496.3</u>	533 <u>395.6</u>	537 <u>395.5</u>	502 <u>369.7</u>
Motor Vehicle Theft <i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	516 <u>389.9</u>	520 <u>389.2</u>	491 <u>364.4</u>	589 <u>433.8</u>	471 <u>346.9</u>
PCA <i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	390 <u>294.7</u>	459 <u>343.6</u>	427 <u>316.9</u>	358 <u>263.6</u>	463 <u>341</u>

Ten Most Commonly Recorded Criminal Incidents in Warringah 2003#	
Type of Offence	2003
Regulatory driving offences <i>Rate per 100,000 population</i>	3038 <u>2217.5</u>
Exceeding legal speed limit <i>Rate per 100,000 population</i>	1947 <u>1421.1</u>
Malicious damage to property <i>Rate per 100,000 population</i>	1228 <u>896.3</u>
Break and Enter Dwelling <i>Rate per 100,000 population</i>	833 <u>608.0</u>
Assault <i>Rate per 100,000 population</i>	803 <u>586.1</u>
Registration Offences <i>Rate per 100,000 population</i>	761 <u>555.5</u>
Steal from Motor Vehicle <i>Rate per 100,000 population</i>	743 <u>542.3</u>
Driving licence offences <i>Rate per 100,000 population</i>	731 <u>533.6</u>
Other theft <i>Rate per 100,000 population</i>	574 <u>419.0</u>
Dangerous or negligent driving <i>Rate per 100,000 population</i>	536 <u>391.2</u>

In July 2003, NSW Police changed the way they classify traffic incidents, this has changed the Criminal Incidents categories and therefore the way in which we have reported Warringahs top 10 incidents 2003 as compared with 2002.

Recorded Criminal Incidents in Warringah 2003



Comparisons with New South Wales

Comparison of Recorded Criminal Incidents in Warringah with NSW 2002		
Type of Offence	Warringah Rate per 100,000 population	NSW Rate per 100,000 population
Other driving offences	4931.9	8379.9
Malicious damage to property	1261	1424.3
Steal from Motor Vehicle	1154	1169.7
Break and Enter Dwelling	835	1068.4
Other Theft	744	916.2
Assault	663	1081.7
Fraud	512	519.7
Break and Enter non dwelling	502	633.3
Motor Vehicle Theft	471	642
PCA	463	384

Comparison of Recorded Criminal Incidents in Warringah with NSW 2003#		
Type of Offence	Warringah Rate per 100,000 population	NSW Rate per 100,000 population
Regulatory driving offences	2217.5	2639.1
Exceeding legal speed limit	1421.1	4022.0
Malicious damage to property	896.3	1417.6
Break and Enter dwelling	608.0	934.6
Assault	586.1	1066.0
Registration offences	555.5	979.8
Steal from Motor Vehicle	542.3	983.2
Driving licence offences	533.6	791.1
Other theft	419.0	817.6
Dangerous or negligent driving	391.2	454.0

In July 2003, NSW Police changed the way they classify traffic incidents, this has changed the Criminal Incidents categories and therefore the way in which we have reported Warringahs incidents in 2003 as compared with 2002.

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Percentage Increase or Decrease of the Ten Most Commonly Recorded Criminal Incidents in Warringah 1998 - 2002			
Type of Offence	1998	2002	Percentage increase or decrease of the Criminal Offence. A comparison of 1998 and 2002
Other driving offences	258	6697	Increased by 2495.74%
<i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	<i>194.9</i>	<i>4931.9</i>	<i>Increased by 2430.5%</i>
Malicious Damage to Property	1207	1261	Increased by 4.5%
<i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	<i>912</i>	<i>928.6</i>	<i>Increased by 1.82%</i>
Steal from Motor Vehicle	1428	1154	Decreased by 19.187%
<i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	<i>1078.9</i>	<i>849.8</i>	<i>Decreased by 21.23%</i>
Break and Enter Dwelling	910	835	Decreased by 8.241%
<i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	<i>687.6</i>	<i>614.9</i>	<i>Decreased by 10.57%</i>
Other theft	767	744	Decreased by 2.99%
<i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	<i>579.5</i>	<i>547.9</i>	<i>Decreased by 5.452%</i>
Assault	536	663	Increased by 23.69%
<i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	<i>405</i>	<i>488.3</i>	<i>Increased by 20.56%</i>
Fraud	598	512	Decreased by 14.38%
<i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	<i>451.8</i>	<i>377.1</i>	<i>Decreased by 16.53%</i>
Break and Enter Non-Dwelling	759	502	Decreased by 33.86%
<i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	<i>573.5</i>	<i>369.7</i>	<i>Decreased by 35.53%</i>
Motor Vehicle Theft	516	471	Decreased by 8.72%
<i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	<i>389.9</i>	<i>346.9</i>	<i>Decreased by 11.02%</i>
PCA	390	463	Increased by 18.71%
<i>Rate per 100,000 of the population</i>	<i>294.7</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>Increased by 15.71%</i>

Annual Percentage Change in Recorded Crime Statistics 2002 to 2003#	
Offence category	Annual percentage change 2002 to 2003
Assault	Stable
Sexual Assault	Stable
Indecent Assault, act of indecency and other sexual offences	Stable
Robbery without a weapon	Stable
Break and enter dwelling	Stable
Break and Enter non dwelling	Stable
Motor Vehicle Theft	Down by 43.2%
Steal from Motor Vehicle	Down by 35.8%
Steal from Retail Store	Stable
Steal from Dwelling	Stable
Steal from Person	Stable
Fraud	Stable
Malicious Damage to Property	Stable

This table shows the results of statistical tests for a significant upward or downward monthly trend in the number of criminal incidents recorded over 2 years for selected offence categories. Where the trend is significant, the annual percentage change in the number of incidents is shown. Offence categories that are not shown had a number of incidents too small for a reliable trend test to be performed.

In July 2003, NSW Police changed the way they classify traffic incidents, this has changed the Criminal Incidents categories and therefore the way in which we have reported Warringah's incidents in 2003 as compared with 2002.

Analysis of the Top Crimes in Warringah

Driving Offences

In July 2003, NSW Police changed the way they classify traffic incidents. The incidence of specific driving offences can no longer be determined directly from police incident categories. In response to this change, from 2003 onwards, the unit of measurement shown in the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research will be the number of legal actions commenced by police rather than the number of incidents recorded.

“**Other Driving Offences**” was a category up until 2002 that included all traffic offences that were not PCA, speed or licence related. The dramatic increase in 2001 was the result of changes to reporting categories. In this case parking infringements have been included. Due to further changes to reporting categories in 2003 “Other Driving Offences” cannot be compared in 2003.

In 2003 “**Regulatory Driving Offences**” has been introduced as a new category.

As discussed above, in 2003 “Regulatory Driving Offences” can be interpreted as the number of legal actions commenced; including referrals to court and infringement notices of driving offences that are **not** reported under the following categories;

- driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs,
- dangerous or negligent driving,
- driving while licence cancelled or suspended,
- driving without a licence,
- driving licence offences,
- roadworthiness offences,
- exceeding the prescribed content of alcohol limit,
- exceeding legal speed limit or parking offences.

Exceeding Legal Speed Limit

Warringah recorded 1947 legal actions for these offences in 2003 (Rate per 100,000 population is 1421.1). Although this is the second of our Top 5 Crimes, compared with NSW this figure is relatively low with the rate per 100,000 population for NSW being 4022.0.

Again, it is difficult to compare the statistics recorded in 2003 with past data as this is the first year this category has appeared as a stand alone.

Malicious Damage to property

Malicious Damage is our third highest ranking offence. The premise for this type of offence can be noted in residential property, schools, outdoor/ public places and business/ commercial properties.

The area of Frenchs Forest has been identified by Police as a hotspot for Malicious Damage

Offences. Police are regularly called to attend incidents of alcohol related youth antisocial behaviour. Constant targeting by Police has shown a reduction in the concentration of offences in that area.

There has been a marked decrease in the total reported incidents of this offence from 2001 to 2003. In 2001 there were 1,608 reported cases, 1,273 in 2002, then a further drop to 1,228 in 2003.

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Break and Enter Dwelling

Reports of Break and Enter offences have fallen from 914 in 2001, to 835 in 2002, then to 803 in 2003. This is the lowest number of this type of offence since 1998.

The most recent research from Local Police – 'Analysis of the Crime Environment 2001' tells us that in 2001 Dee Why was the hotspot for this type of offence. 59% of the reported BE offences in that year occurred in residential dwellings and 19.5% occurred in Business/Commercial premises. The major target within the residential dwellings being the large percentage of home units in the Dee Why area.

The majority of offences occur during the day when people are not at home. The majority of offenders are from outside the area.

Approximately 33,000 residents leave the Northern Beaches to travel to work on a daily basis. This results in large numbers of premises being vacant during the day and consequently being vulnerable to property offences.

Police report that an increase in arrests are due to DNA techniques and improved investigative techniques.

Steal from Motor Vehicle

SFMV continues to be a significant problem in Warringah with 1154 reported offences in 2002, although there has been a decrease since 2001 (1386). A further decrease was reported in the 2003 statistics.

Northern Beaches Local Area Command identified this problem as a targeted area for concern in 2003. Their 'Command Profile' for 2003 states that hotspots are located in **Dee Why CBD and Brookvale, in particular Warringah Mall Shopping Centre**. The reasons put forward by Police for these hot spot areas are:

Warringah Mall:	Up to 4200 vehicles in carpark easily accessed by Public Transport
Dee Why:	Continuing growth of residential home unit blocks with minimal onsite parking has meant an increase of vehicles parked on the street making the area opportunistic for SFMV offences.

Police have been using the following strategies in addressing SFMV offences and report having seen a marked decrease in the occurrence of this offence.

- Targeting repeat and known offenders
- Monitoring the activities of jail releases
- Hot spot tasking
- Working with Council Lifeguards
- Signage at beach car parks
- Using the Media in modifying community behaviour with respect to car keys and personal property in cars

The 'Analysis of the Crime Environment Report 2001' indicates that the **majority of offences occur during the hours of darkness between Monday and Friday**. The report also shows that in 2000 – 2001 the majority of offenders lived outside the Northern Beaches LAC and that 43% of offenders for this time period were males between the ages of 14 and 17. **Police confirm this is still the case for 2004.**

A significant increase of SFMV occurred between January 2004 and April 2004. Recent arrests made were offenders from both inside and outside the area.

Assault

Statistics show that the number of assaults have risen by 20% in Warringah from 556 in 2001 to 687 in 2002 and then further to 803 in 2003. This is still significantly lower than the average rate for NSW. Police report that approximately fifty percent of assaults are domestic violence assaults.

There has been increased action by police in relation to domestic violence inline with government policy which has shown to have a long term reduction in re-offending. It is anticipated that the domestic violence increase may reduce in time.

Mental health situations have become more and more common for Police. In 2003 Northern Beaches Police responded to two hundred and seventeen (217) calls, an average of more than four (4) a week. In the first three months of 2004 they have attended seventy eight (78) mental health situations.

Gathering statistics on domestic (in terms of violence against women) and sexual assault has proven to be difficult. Most data from NSW Health and the Northern Sydney Area Health Service is only regional or State wide. It is not readily broken down into suburb or local Government area.

The report of the Chief Health Officer for NSW Health, 2002 indicated that hospital rates for injuries caused by interpersonal violence have increased. In 1999-2000, there were six thousand three hundred and five (6305) hospitalisations of NSW residents for injuries resulting from interpersonal violence, giving a rate of 103 per 100,000. Over half (57.1%) of these were of people aged between 20 and 39 years.

The 2002 annual report for the Northern Sydney Sexual Assault Service states that 12% of their clients in the last twelve months have diagnosed mental health conditions, 27% have been in a violent domestic relationship within the last 12 months, 14.5% have experienced drug facilitated sexual assault.

Adult Survivors of child sexual assault (23% of Initial Presentations) continue to access the service in large numbers. Older women are accessing the Sexual Assault Service in increasing numbers (17% over 40 and 3% over 55 years).

Men are accessing the service in increasing numbers (14% of initial presentations).

Further investigation of these statistics will be required to gain a clearer picture of what is happening in Warringah.

Issues to Consider

While considering the crime statistics it is important to place them in the context of cultural acceptance of reporting crime, underreporting of particular crimes to police and other factors that may increase reporting of crimes.

Cultural acceptance of reporting crime

Members of the community accept their responsibility to report property theft, break and enters and steal from motor vehicle or of a motor vehicle. This is also necessary for insurance purposes.

Underreporting of Crime

Public perception of the levels of crime are based on the various sources of statistics that provide the information. It is widely recognised that crimes of violence particularly in relation to things such as domestic violence; sexual assault and assault are underreported.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) recently published a paper (Measuring Crime Victimization, 2004) that compares crime victimisation statistics from a number of sources published in Australia.

The General Social Survey found that nine percent of respondents were victims of assault, as did the 2000 International Crime Victims Survey. The Women's Safety Survey found the prevalence of assault was 5.9 per cent and the National Crime and Safety Survey conducted by the ABS found that 4.7 per cent of its respondents were victims of assault. The lowest prevalence of assault in Australia (0.8 per cent) was reported in Recorded Crime Statistics (based on assault reported to, and recorded by, police).

Underreporting may also occur where damage is minor and the victim believes there is no chance of perpetrators being caught i.e. smashed letterbox or where damage is to public property.

There is anecdotal evidence that crimes against young people (assaults and robbery) are underreported possibly due to fear of further retribution.

Other Factors that can Increase Reporting Crime

An increase in the reporting of certain crimes can be seen as positive. For example, an increase of reporting domestic violence following an intensive media campaign encouraging reporting, does not necessarily relate to an increase in domestic violence.

Community Perception of Crime

Despite the fact that Warringah Local Government Area is very safe compared to other areas of NSW, the community does have a fear/perception of crime that needs to be addressed.

Research suggests a number of possible reasons for fear of crime. These include the influence of the media, previous experience of crime, feelings of increased vulnerability and fear of particular types of crime, for example, the fear of sexual assault for women and lack of physical strength for older people (Weatherburn et al, 1996; Safe Women's Project, 1998; National Crime Prevention, 1998).

The media plays a profound role in the development of an individual's perceptions on crime and safety that may not be as close to reality as the individuals comes to believe. Moore (2001) states that the media plays a major role in constructing fears as certain 'social problems' are singled out for attention and promoted as serious until the public, previously indifferent, comes to see these crimes as "self evidently major problems requiring action (pg 93)".

One group within society who is continually misrepresented by the media is youth. Bessant and Watts (2002) state that the media often offers a generalised view of all young people as being rebellious, difficult, deviant and the source of society's problems (p165-70).

This fear is mainly caused by the presence of youth 'hanging out' in public spaces, which is automatically seen by some members of society as deviant behaviour, when in most cases the youth are merely using the public space as a site at which to socialise.

These particular issues are raised in the 'Safe Warringah' Community Survey, 2003.

The SAFE Warringah Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan recognises the importance of working with the community to develop their capacity in protecting themselves and acting as caretakers in their local neighbourhoods and shopping areas. It is clear that we need to understand what the barriers are for people in taking on these roles, including reporting of certain crimes and their fear of retribution for reporting crime.

Increasing community connections and a sense of looking out for each other delivers a message to all about what behaviour is acceptable on our streets and in public places.

As research by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (Chilvers, 1996) suggests, more work is needed to explore our understanding of the perceived risks of victimisation or fear of crime

for the community. A greater understanding of these issues will allow the development of programs and projects that are specifically tailored to the needs of various groups. What we know about issues at present suggests that the development of strategies would need to include the following factors:

- Focus on improving community perceptions as well as a reduction of actual crime;
- Working with those that feel most vulnerable to crime;
- Provide information to the community to develop their capacity to protect themselves and their property, while not reinforcing a sense of personal vulnerability; and
- Provide information that is accessible to the variety of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities.

Current Initiatives

Warringah Council is involved in and actively supportive of community safety and crime prevention strategies in the local area. Some examples include:

The Safe Warringah Workshop

The S.A.F.E (Safety Awareness for Everyone) Warringah Workshop was a partnership initiative of Warringah Council and Northern Sydney Health, held in November 2003. It involved over thirty community safety providers who participated in a workshop to develop directions, solutions and strategies to improve community safety and partnership initiatives in Warringah. Activities included a mapping exercise on safety in Warringah. The second stage of the workshop is to develop an intervention/campaign targeting the Warringah community.

SHOROC Safe Communities Program

SHOROC, the regional organisation of Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah Councils are all accredited World Health Organisation Safe Communities. Through a partnership of health and local government, the Councils work together to influence environmental, structural and organisational changes to promote safety and reduce injuries, crashes & crime.

No Regrets Safe Party Pak

The SHOROC Councils and NSW Police developed a safe party project in response to parents concerns when hosting a party in their own home for young people. The project resulted in the development and wide distribution of the No Regrets Safe Party Pak and the establishment of a party registration scheme with the police.

The 'Pak' includes information as well as a check- list for parents and young people to organise and host a safe and trouble free party. The registration form assists the police by informing them of where parties are being held in the area should any trouble occur.

When it's community halls are used for events for young people, Council has a specific policy. Specific strategies must be in place, for example security contracted and the police informed of the event prior to the hall being used. Youth Services staff also check on events.

Community Safety Audits

Council's Safety Committee have conducted a series of safety audits in the area where there have been reports of criminal or antisocial behaviour or a perception of crime. Using safer by design principles, recommendations from the audit have been forwarded to the relevant departments for action. Improvements to date have included lighting, vegetation removal, signage and capital expenditure.

Warringah Council Graffiti Project/Youth Projects

Warringah Council's Youth Service is actively involved with local young people to prevent them becoming involved in any antisocial activity. Youth involvement in crime prevention includes a recent road safety initiative, where road safety messages were presented as part of a youth band night. The Graffiti Project targets fourteen to twenty one year olds. It aims to divert potential graffiti taggers to artistic graffiti. The project encompasses free tutoring, five legal mural walls, supervised murals on private or public property, a rapid removal policy at Council and a reward system for any information leading to prosecution.

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Youth Services provide or facilitate a significant number of youth events (band nights, dances, skate events etc) as a pro-active strategy providing positive alternatives.

Warringah Council also employ a Youth Activities Services Worker and Family Liaison Worker. The YAS (Youth Activity Service) provides outside school hours supervised activities to adolescents (11-16 years) who may be experiencing social, family or educational difficulties.

The Family Support Worker supports parents and children who are referred to the YAS program. This includes referral to counselling and goal setting for parents and their children, referral to other agencies and developing communication skills. Courses and information evenings are also held for parents, young people and the wider community to develop skills and knowledge.

'Out of Harms Way' Agreement

This agreement was developed by Council and police with the aim of opening up discussion between parents and their teenagers on topics often difficult to discuss such as alcohol use, drug use, entertainment etc. The agreement is intended to be kept within the family and can be adjusted according to each family's individual needs.

The signing by each party of the agreement will ideally prevent situations where a person could be killed or injured but could turn out differently if someone had been notified or communication lines between friends, parents and the community were more open and honest, without fear of retribution.

Crime Prevention Information for Older people

Warringah Council Aged Services have been proactive in developing programs and activities addressing safety issues for older people.

This includes safety and security displays at the local shopping mall and Aged Festivals on personal and financial safety and the dissemination of Information on home security, inside and out. Seniors Weeks have included Crime Prevention talks as well as the provision of fridge magnets with emergency contact numbers.

Road Safety Programs

Warringah Council has a full time Road Safety Officer. Issues such as speeding, drink driving, pedestrian safety, occupant restraints and school safety are the main focus areas for Warringah's road safety program. These target areas involve the development and implementation of a range of strategies targeting a broad range of ages. The target groups are determined through consultation with the RTA, NSW Police and Council statistical data showing representation of ages and road user types for all crashes. Strategies are developed that involve specific elements such as engineering, education and enforcement. The Road Safety Action Plan links closely with the Crime Prevention Plan. Road safety initiatives are therefore dealt with specifically within the Road Safety Action Plan separate from this plan.

Beach Stealing Cooperatives with Lifeguards (Beach Watch)

The Police Crime Prevention Officer liaises with Lifeguards on beach stealing matters, providing them with information and recommending crime prevention strategies. Lifeguards complete a daily activity form each day, which includes reports of any stealings. This information is monitored by Council and reported to the police.

Neighbourhood Watch

There are three active neighbourhood watch programs in the Warringah area.

Families First

The *Families First* Program currently being implemented by the NSW Government, is a prevention and early intervention strategy that helps parents give their children a good start in life. This program aims to identify and support those families experiencing issues that make it especially difficult to raise children, including mental health issues, learning difficulties, drug and alcohol issues and social isolation (Standing Committee on Law & Justice, 1999). Warringah Council has recently signed an agreement with the Cabinet Office and employed a Project Officer to implement this strategy across the Manly, Warringah and Pittwater area.

Bizsafe Program

Bizsafe is a NSW Police Crime Prevention Initiative supported by NRMA Business Insurance and the State Chamber of Commerce. Local Crime Prevention Officers visit businesses to assist them in reducing the risk of their business becoming a victim of crime. Businesses also learn about strategies that prevent and reduce crime, and improve safety for owners and staff. Council is supportive of this project.

Safer by Design Protocols

A Safer by Design Protocol has been signed between Council and the Local Area Commander to ensure that Police with Safer by Design training have input into major developments, eg shopping centres. This is done through audits and checklists.

Shopping Centre Protocols

Council is currently working with Police and Shopping Centre Management to develop Shopping Centre Protocols for Regional Shopping Centres at Warringah Mall (Warringah Local Government Area) and Warriewood Square (Pittwater Local Government Area). This is a proactive strategy to manage any potential disruptive behaviour of young people in a consistent manner.

Priority Areas for Action

In the development of this plan, Council has listened to the community and service providers who have expressed their concerns about crime in the area, and compared their concerns with the crime statistics.

The Crime Profile shows that crime in Warringah is lower than the State average in all cases, except drink driving offences. The community consultations, however, do reveal a concern regarding crime in Warringah.

In reference to the Crime Profile, driving related crime will be addressed within the Road Safety Action Plan. Warringah Council has had a Road Safety Officer since 1994 to specifically address road related safety issues and crime. A partnership has been developed to ensure a link between both plans.

As an accredited 'Safe Community' Warringah Council is committed to maintaining the low crime rate and working closely with our partners and the community to improve the rate further. Council will also seek to investigate specific areas of concern to our community and address the important issue of perception of crime.

An analysis of this process has resulted in the development of four key areas to be addressed;

1. Malicious damage and anti social behaviour
2. Theft from motor vehicles, Break & Enter and theft of personal property
3. Assaults - Violence
4. Perception of crime and fear of crime

Each of the priority area has a series of goals:

1. Malicious damage and antisocial behaviour

To reduce malicious damage to Council property in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

To identify and reduce the factors that influence antisocial behaviour in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

2. Theft from motor vehicles, Break & Enter and theft of personal property

To reduce theft from motor vehicles in identified hotspots of Warringah

To reduce break and enter offences in Warringah through education and information campaigns

To reduce personal property theft on beaches in Warringah

3. Assaults - Violence

To increase awareness of domestic violence as an offence in Warringah via educational campaigns

To investigate the needs of older women living in a violent or potentially violent situation in Warringah via a qualitative research project

To reduce the vulnerability of young people out late at night in Warringah

4. Perception of crime and fear of crime

To reduce Warringah resident's perception of crime

To investigate older people's perception of crime

To encourage reporting of safety issues to Council and Police by Warringah residents

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The action plan has been developed to address the priority areas. Each strategy has been prioritised as either A (highest priority), B (second priority) and C (lowest priority).

When implementing the plan priority A strategies will receive the most resources and are more likely to be specifically funded projects. Priority B projects can be implemented at the same time, but will require less resources. Priority C strategies require the least resources and usually require 'one off' actions with a short time frame.

Each strategy has also been allocated a time frame over the three -year period of the plan. This is to ensure that resources are allocated in a realistic and achievable manner.

Priorities and timeframes are open to change. For example, a funding opportunity may arise for a project that is not planned for another twelve months. In this case a priority may be brought forward. Any changes to the action plan will be discussed with the Community Safety Committee for approval.

As discussed in the literature review the action plan encompasses strategies that reflect a two-pronged approach to crime prevention of social development and environmental design. A number of the strategies may have more than one outcome. This is particularly the case with social development strategies.

For example action 1.1 *To increase youth participation in the planning of public space*, will involve networking and promoting connectiveness to community and existing services. This social development strategy builds community ownership and resilience in young people but ultimately aims to reduce malicious damage to property.

The Action Plan aims to be proactive as well as reactive, ensuring long-term sustainability of a reduction of the incidence and fear of crime in the Warringah Local Government Area.

Implementing the Plan

Warringah Council's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan will be implemented over the following three years. Council's Community and Cultural Services Unit will drive the implementation of the plan with the support of other Units including Compliance, Construction and Maintenance, Parks and Reserves, Policy Planning and Commissioning and Environment and Health. Local approvals will have a strategic role in the promotion of safety by design principals at Development Application stage.

The Community Safety Officer will coordinate the application for funding for specific projects and bring together working groups or steering committees when required. Progress on the implementation of the plan will be reported to the Community Safety Committee.

The plan is a living document, requiring regular reviews for its relevance to the Warringah Community.

Throughout the implementation of the plan, the community will be informed about key milestones and achievements. To ensure this, a communication strategy will be developed.

The plan will not be implemented in isolation, but in conjunction with other significant plans, for example, The Road Safety Action Plan, Warringah Youth Strategy, Warringah's Social Plan and the Warringah Transitional Plan.

Evaluation

The evaluation of the plan and its aims and goals is as important as the implementation phase. Warringah's plan will be reviewed annually and evaluated at the end of the three years.

Quantitative evaluation will provide an indication of broad statistical trends through a post Community Survey and updated crime statistics.

Qualitative evaluation will be used to provide a more in-depth understanding of the social context through interviews, observations and case studies.

Information gathered will be analysed and a report produced which highlights any significant results. Of particular interest will be any changes in the Warringah community's perception of crime within the area.

The action plan will be evaluated annually against indicators which have been identified and focus on specific outcomes for each strategy. The indicators will provide evidence as to whether each strategy has reached its goals, if the strategy used was appropriate and if it is possible to improve the strategy.

Specifically, performance indicators will measure-

- Quantity – measuring performance in terms of 'how many', 'how often' or 'how much' (numbers of, frequency of, rate of)
- Quality – measuring performance in terms of 'how well' (opinions of, feedback form, continued participation of)
- Timeframe – measuring performance in terms of 'how long' (time taken, changes over time);
- Cost – measuring performance in terms of 'how expensive' (money spent, equipment purchased, staff wages)
- Resources – measuring performance in terms of 'how much' and 'what was contributed by whom' (agency contributions, cash and in-kind contributions, use of volunteers, funding base)
- Participation – measuring performance in terms of 'who was involved' (members of target group, project organisers, funding agency, community residents).

Specific evaluation models will be designed for each Crime Prevention Project implemented as part of the plan.

Evaluation of whether the end result of the projects or strategies implemented will result in a sustainable outcome will also be an important component of the process.

The success of the plan is intrinsically linked to the ability to attract funds. Time spent applying for funding, the ratio of success and feedback from funding bodies will also be incorporated into the evaluation of the plan.

The Plan

Action Plan

Priority Area 1

Malicious Damage and Antisocial Behaviour

Goals:

To reduce malicious damage to Council property in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

To identify and reduce the factors that influence antisocial behaviour in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
1.1	To increase youth participation in the planning of public space	Youth in surrounding areas of identified spaces	<p>A mechanism developed to increase consultation with young people</p> <p>Two new inclusive youth open space projects implemented</p>	<p>Council Strategic Planners</p> <p>Youth</p> <p>Council Youth workers</p> <p>Council's Community Safety Officer</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Project funding</p>	<p>2007</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Positive feedback from young people via pre and post questionnaires</p> <p>2 new space improvements undertaken and evaluated</p> <p>50% of youth recommendations implemented</p>

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Action Plan

Priority Area 1

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To reduce malicious damage to Council property in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

To identify and reduce the factors that influence antisocial behaviour in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
1.2	Develop an 'adopt a park' strategy where antisocial behaviour and malicious damage exists in conjunction with Safety Audits, follow up of CAPEX works eg. lighting	Youth and community in surrounding areas of identified parks	<p>In consultation with the community, Neighbourhood Watch Network, Police and Council staff identify priority parks for the strategy</p> <p>Implementation of strategy in one park to be selected every two years for the program.</p> <p>Local community meeting held in identified area.</p> <p>Safety audit conducted</p> <p>Recommendations developed and implemented</p>	<p>Council's Community Safety Officer</p> <p>Council Youth Workers</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Community</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Project Funding</p>	<p>2006</p> <p>A</p>	<p>A pre and post project survey undertaken to evaluate the initiative from the perspective of the participants</p> <p>Strategy implemented in 2 parks over the three-year period</p> <p>Evaluation undertaken to ascertain effectiveness of the strategy in reducing anti-social behaviour and malicious damage in targeted parks</p>

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Action Plan

Priority Area 1

Malicious Damage and Antisocial Behaviour

Goals:

To reduce malicious damage to Council property in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

To identify and reduce the factors that influence antisocial behaviour in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
1.3	Coordinated approach to preventing malicious damage to Council Buildings		<p>Audit of capital works required to improve safety of community centres</p> <p>Targeting of one the centres per year for safer by design upgrades</p> <p>May also link to the adopt a park program where appropriate</p>	<p>Council's Community Safety Officer</p> <p>Council's Building and maintenance staff</p> <p>Council Planners</p> <p>Police</p>	Council – subject to funding availability	<p>2005</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Reduction in anti social behaviour</p> <p>Reduction in costs to Council – pre and post survey</p> <p>3 centres upgraded</p> <p>Action Plan completed with budgets allocated</p> <p>Evaluation undertaken to ascertain if a reduction in malicious damage incidents takes place on targeted improved buildings</p>

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Action Plan

Priority Area 1

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To reduce malicious damage to Council property in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

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	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
1.4	An improvement in late night transport options for young people	Youth – all youth in the Warringah LGA	Development of an 'after midnight' transport strategy for Warringah linked to the 'Pumpkin Bus' Strategy Support of the SHOROC 'Scab a Cab' Project Late night transport audit undertaken of bus routes on the Northern Beaches Development of a Young People & Transport Liaison Consultative Committee	Council's Community Safety Officer Council's Road Safety Officer Manly Warringah Cabs Licensees STA/Forest Coachlines Ministry of Transport Police Council Youth Services	Project funding Warringah PLAN Funding	2005 A	An improved late-night transport strategy A reduction in antisocial behaviour late at night Feedback from passengers Evaluation indicates an increased patronage of late-night transport (both taxis and buses) by young people. Data will be collected by transport operators pre and post implementation
1.5	Work with Police re Alcohol Free Zones for identification of trouble spots for drinking by youth over 18 years of age	Youth over 18 years old in identified trouble spots	Alcohol Free Zones in place at identified trouble spots Targeting of these identified trouble spots by the police	Rangers Police Council's Community Safety Officer	Council	B	Reduction of antisocial behaviour in the identified trouble spots Feedback from the police
1.6	An evaluation of Alcohol Free Zones in Warringah		A report to Council on whether the Zones are effective in the reduction of alcohol related anti social behaviour	Council's Community Safety Officer Police Rangers	Use of students Project Funding	2007 C	Report adopted by Council Recommendations adopted by Council and referred to State Government

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Action Plan

Priority Area 1

Malicious Damage and Antisocial Behaviour

Goals:

To reduce malicious damage to Council property in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

To identify and reduce the factors that influence antisocial behaviour in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
1.7	Develop Closer links with the Liquor Licensing Consultative Committee in order to develop a coordinated approach to the prevention of antisocial behaviour outside venues	Licensees	More licensees involved in projects Improved understanding of how parties can work together through collaborative projects	Licensing Police Council's Community Safety Officer Licensees	Nil	2005	Number of meetings attended Number of licensees involved in projects A 10% increase in participating venues
1.8	To increase the opportunity for safety by design principles to be applied to major public development in Warringah	Planning staff	Development of a policy within Council that supports staff to complete Safer by Design Training Increased number of Safer by Design trained staff –(to be agreed with Planning Staff) More joint Police/Council evaluations	Council's Planning Staff Council's Community Safety Officer Police	Council	2006 C	Number of staff trained at all times At least 2 joint police and Council staff evaluation sessions for plans An audit indicates an increase in Safer by Design Principles adopted in plans
1.9	To develop a coordinated approach to crime prevention	Council Staff Police	A network of information exchange between building and maintenance, Rangers, Cleansing team and police 2 x a year Development of joint responses to building and maintenance issues that have an influence on crime	Council's Building and maintenance staff Rangers Council's Cleansing team Police Council's Community Safety Officer	Nil	2007 C	2 network meetings per year Feedback of participants indicates greater awareness and contact with relevant stakeholders Number of joint crime prevention projects developed (minimum 2 per year)

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Action Plan

Priority Area 1

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To reduce malicious damage to Council property in Warringah through environmental and social development programs

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	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
1.10	To review Council's consultation process with young people and increase their participation in community activities	Youth	Program developed to skill young people in the consultation process More involvement of young people in Council's consultations Improved Youth Consultation Strategy	Youth Council's Youth Services Council's Community Safety Officer	Project funding Council	2008 B	Evaluation indicates an increase in young peoples involvement in consultations and planning Feedback from participants is positive and indicates greater confidence to become involved in the consultation process
1.11	Development of a youth diversionary program for youth served with underage drinking infringement notices to reduce contact with criminal justice system and reduce re-offending of young people	Youth who have been issued with an infringement notice in the Warringah Local Government Area and have had previous contact with the justice system	A program developed for youth that encompasses self esteem/surfing or skateboarding, based on existing evidence based programs	Council's Community Safety Officer Council Youth Services Police –Youth Liaison Officers Juvenile Conferencing Manly Drug Education & Counselling Centre Local skate/sports shops NSW Police Surfing Association	Project Funding	2006 A	Number of youth served with underage drinking infringement notices attending the program Positive evaluation of program by participants Evaluation indicates number of participants who continue with the sport one year after the program is completed Evaluation demonstrates a low rate of re-offending by participants

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Action Plan

Priority Area 2 Theft

Goals:

- To reduce theft from motor vehicles in identified hotspots of Warringah
- To reduce break and enter offences in Warringah through education and information campaigns
- To reduce personal property theft on beaches in Warringah

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
2.1	Encourage reporting of incidents of theft and greater collaboration to respond to incidents	Police, Rangers and Lifeguards	Information exchange developed	Council's Community Safety Officer Rangers Police	Nil	2006 C	Feedback form participants Two Joint operations implemented per year Crime reduction on beaches
2.2	Identify hotspot areas where high rates of theft occur and place signage to inform people	Beach visitors	Hot spots identified Signage produced Campaign designed Flyers developed to place on windscreens	Council's Community Safety Officer Police Rangers	Project funding	2006 B	Raised awareness of community Reduction of theft at identified areas Observation of car park
2.3	Develop a media campaign to remind people not to leave valuables in their cars	Community	Hotspots identified Campaign developed including displays, stickers on all parking meters, media stories	Council's Community Safety Officer Police Rangers	Project funding Council	2005 B	Stickers on all parking meters & ticket machines Raised awareness of community in those areas Reduction of theft in hotspots

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Action Plan

Priority Area 2 Theft

Goals:

- To reduce theft from motor vehicles in identified hotspots of Warringah
- To reduce break and enter offences in Warringah through education and information campaigns
- To reduce personal property theft on beaches in Warringah

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
2.4	Create an information section on Council's website providing tips for residents to prevent break & enters using safer by design principles	Community	Information available on website	Council's Community Safety Officer Police	Project funding	2006 B	Number of hits on the website Email feedback forms on the website asking whether recommendations have been implemented
2.5	Determine the barriers to reporting crime for vulnerable groups Implement recommendations	CALD Communities Older people People with disabilities	Consultations conducted with older people, CALD Communities and people with disabilities Barriers determined and recommendations developed Council meets with local Police to pursue recommendations	Police Ethnic Community Liaison Officer Disability Worker CSO Aged Services Development Workers	Project Funding	2007 B	Evaluation indicates increased reporting of crime by older people, CALD Communities and people with disabilities

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Action Plan

Priority Area 2 Theft

Goals:

- To reduce theft from motor vehicles in identified hotspots of Warringah
- To reduce break and enter offences in Warringah through education and information campaigns
- To reduce personal property theft on beaches in Warringah

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
2.6	Identify barriers to young people reporting theft of personal property	Young people	Consultation with young people and Youth Services Barriers identified Report and recommendations developed	Council's Community Safety Officer Police Youth Council's Youth Workers	Project Funding	2007 B	Report completed 50% of recommendations implemented Increased reporting of crime by young people
2.7	Encourage community members to identify their valuables to encourage return of stolen goods	Community	Provide an engraving kits at all libraries and arts centres in Warringah Stickers placed in window of residents reporting that they have identified their property	Police Council's Community Safety Officer Council's Library Staff	Council	2006 C	Use of kits by residents Feedback from Police on number of returned goods
2.8	Foster community links by increasing communication between Council and Community	Communities in specific hot spot areas	The development of a locality specific newsletter to keep local people informed of progress and to encourage communication with neighbours and Council	Police Council's Community Safety Officer Community	Council	2007 A	Increased reporting of suspicious behaviour Reduction in the perception of crime through a pre and post questionnaire

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Action Plan

Priority Area 2 Theft

Goals:

- To reduce theft from motor vehicles in identified hotspots of Warringah
- To reduce break and enter offences in Warringah through education and information campaigns
- To reduce personal property theft on beaches in Warringah

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
2.9	Support the Police/NRMA project on preventing theft in hotels	Community	Development of a video to be played at the bar, reminding people not to leave their valuables unattended	Police at Manly, Northern Beaches and Harbourside Community Safety Officers at Manly Warringah and Pittwater Councils NRMA	Project Funding	2006 B	Video produced Video played in venues Feedback from customers in hotels Reduction of theft from hotels
2.10	Support the BizSafe Project	Businesses in Warringah	Breakfast meetings have crime prevention and safety on agenda	Police Council	Nil	Ongoing	Reduction in break & enter of non dwellings

Action Plan

Priority Area 2 Theft

Goals:

- To reduce theft from motor vehicles in identified hotspots of Warringah
- To reduce break and enter offences in Warringah through education and information campaigns
- To reduce personal property theft on beaches in Warringah

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
2.11	<p>Develop a project to reduce theft of personal property from beaches and support existing strategies</p> <p>Consideration of locker facilities at targeted beaches</p>	Beachgoers	<p>Regular monitoring of theft from beaches</p> <p>Hotspots identified</p> <p>Project developed</p>	<p>Council's Community Safety Officer</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Lifeguards</p>	Project funding	<p>2008</p> <p>B</p>	<p>Project implemented</p> <p>Raised awareness of beachgoers</p> <p>Increased reporting of theft from beaches</p> <p>Reduction in incidents of theft</p> <p>Increased joint projects between police and lifeguards</p> <p>Improved Identification of suspects for theft from beaches or beach car parks</p>

Action Plan

Priority Area 3 Violence and Assault

Goals:

To increase awareness of domestic violence as an offence in Warringah via educational campaigns

To investigate the needs of older women living in a violent or potentially violent situation in Warringah via a qualitative research project

To reduce the vulnerability of young people out late at night in Warringah

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
3.1	Support the Northern Sydney Violence Against Women Specialist in implementing the 'Spiked Drinks Campaign in Warringah' to raise awareness of drink spiking among young women in local venues and prevent incidents of victimisation	Women	Information on spiked drinks provided at all hotels in Warringah	Council's Community Safety Officer Northern Sydney Violence Against Women Specialist Police Licensees	Joint project Funding	2005 C	Increased awareness of the issue of drink spiking Increased reporting leading to arrest Pre and post survey of random selection of young women demonstrates greater awareness of drink spiking and ways to protect yourself
3.2	To continue to increase awareness of and reporting domestic violence	Community	Education campaign designed	Domestic Violence Workers Women's Organisations Northern Sydney Violence Against Women Specialist Council's Community Safety Officer	Project funding	2007 B	Campaign implemented Positive evaluation Increased reporting

Action Plan

Priority Area 3 Violence and Assault

Goals:

- To increase awareness of domestic violence as an offence in Warringah via educational campaigns
- To investigate the needs of older women living in a violent or potentially violent situation in Warringah via a qualitative research project
- To reduce the vulnerability of young people out late at night in Warringah

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
3.3	Implement NSW Attorney General's Department Campaign "Violence - its against all the rules" targeting men's attitudes towards violence against women and encouraging men to speak out on issues of violence	Men	Educational material displayed at every sporting venue in Warringah Educational pilot program designed to be implemented across five sporting groups for young boys 9-11 years	Domestic Violence Workers Northern Sydney Violence Against Women Specialist Council's Community Safety Officer Council's Family Liaison Worker/Youth Workers Council's Recreation Staff Sporting Union Dept Sport and Recreation Clubs Primary Schools	Project Funding	2006 A	Material displayed Program implemented Survey reveals positive, antiviolence attitudes expressed by participants Recommendations from evaluation implemented by Council and Sporting Clubs/Schools

Action Plan

Priority Area 3 Violence and Assault

Goals:

To increase awareness of domestic violence as an offence in Warringah via educational campaigns

To investigate the needs of older women living in a violent or potentially violent situation in Warringah via a qualitative research project

To reduce the vulnerability of young people out late at night in Warringah

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
3.4	Identify the needs of older women who are living in a violent situation or are in fear of violence in terms of pathways to leave violence	Older women	<p>Consultation conducted with older women and service providers</p> <p>Recommendations presented to Council</p>	<p>Council's Community Safety Officer Council's</p> <p>Older Residents Workers from non government and government organisations</p> <p>Councils Aged Services Development Officers</p> <p>Domestic violence workers Northern Sydney Violence Against Women Specialist</p>	Project funding	2006 B	<p>Needs assessment completed</p> <p>50% of recommendations implemented</p>

Action Plan

Priority Area 3 Violence and Assault

Goals:

- To increase awareness of domestic violence as an offence in Warringah via educational campaigns
- To investigate the needs of older women living in a violent or potentially violent situation in Warringah via a qualitative research project
- To reduce the vulnerability of young people out late at night in Warringah

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
3.5	Further develop the "Out of Harms Way" agreement to empower young people to become responsible to communicate with their parents/guardians on safety strategies linked to going out at night and their own use or a friend's use of alcohol/and or drugs through the power of theatre and peer education	Young people	<p>The development of a 'youth friendly' resource package in the format of a CD containing a number of 'role play' video clips and other useful information which will assist young people in communicating with their parents</p> <p>Promotion of the project through a peer education strategy</p>	<p>Council's Community Safety Officer</p> <p>Council's Youth Workers</p> <p>Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Warringah Youth Advisory Committee</p>	Grant Funding	A 2005	<p>Evaluation will indicate young people involved in the project have improved confidence to communicate with their parents/guardians on safety strategies linked to going out at night</p> <p>Participants in the project will report that they feel less vulnerable when out at night</p> <p>Evaluation will also indicate participants increase in knowledge safety strategies linked to going out at night and their own use or a friend's use of alcohol/and or drugs</p>

Action Plan

Priority Area 4 Perception of Crime and Fear of Crime

Goals:

To reduce Warringah residents' perception of crime

To investigate older people's perception of crime

To encourage reporting of safety issues to Council by Warringah residents

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
4.1	Develop regular positive media stories to address media images of crime in Warringah.	Community	Positive media stories developed by Council A reduction in the perception and fear of crime	Council's Community Safety Officer Council's Communications Staff	Nil	Ongoing A	Media monitor through the library of pre and post implementation indicates an increased number of positive stories versus negative stories in the three-year period (local media) Positive changes to perception in Council's community survey
4.2	Identify key areas of concern for residents and target them for the removal of litter, graffiti, dumped cars etc	Community in specific hotspot locations	Key areas identified Coordinated approach designed	Council's Community Safety Officer and relevant Council Staff Police	Council	2006 B	Number of areas targeted Feedback from residents indicates they feel safer in the area surveyed and they have a reduced level of fear of crime

Action Plan

Priority Area 4 Perception of Crime and Fear of Crime

Goals:

To reduce Warringah residents' perception of crime

To investigate older people's perception of crime

To encourage reporting of safety issues to Council by Warringah residents

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
4.3	Given the large percentage of older people in the area, research whether there is a fear of crime	Older people living in the community	Report providing the perception of crime of older people living in the community and recommendations for action linked to a general survey of older residents	Council's Community Safety Officer Councils Aged Services Development Officers Police Older Residents Workers from non government and government organisations	Project funding	2007 B	Report completed Recommendations adopted by Council
4.4	Provide a forum for young people to express their safety concerns and gain support to address them (linked to 1.2)	Youth	Development of information to be placed on the Youthsources.org website Use of youth radio to encourage discussion and debate	Council's Community Safety Officer Youth Council's Youth workers Warringah Youth Advisory Committee	Council	2008 B	Information available on website Number of hits to website Feedback from young people who participate Support for recommendations by Council and Police

Action Plan

Priority Area 4 Perception of Crime and Fear of Crime

Goals:

To reduce Warringah residents' perception of crime

To investigate older people's perception of crime

To encourage reporting of safety issues to Council by Warringah residents

	STRATEGIES	TARGET GROUPS	OUTPUTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS	RESOURCES	TIMING/PRIORITY	INDICATORS/EVALUATION
4.5	Encourage community members to report safety issues and suggestions for action	Community	Data base developed to link suggestions to existing projects to improve communication and responses to the community	Council's Community Safety Officer Council's Information Technology department Community Safety Committee	Council	2006 A	Number of reports to Committee Number of suggestions implemented Feedback from the Community

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