

City of Bayswater

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PLAN



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Introduction



Community Safety and Crime Prevention: working in partnership

The City of Bayswater is committed to ensuring the City is a great place to live, work, visit and play. In order to live up to this commitment it is vital the City makes sure that it is a safe and welcoming place for all.

The City's vision acknowledges the importance of creating such an environment:

“We belong to an active and engaged community, which is proud of our diverse culture, green spaces, built environment and range of services.

*We are connected by our vibrant local centres and our focus on **creating safe and welcoming places** for people.*

We have strong leadership, which addresses the sustainability challenges of the future and meets the needs of our changing society.”

This Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan (CSCP) outlines the City's vision and commitment to safety and crime prevention while outlining the roles and responsibilities of all those partners involved. The CSCP plan includes an analysis of current issues and challenges on the topic of community safety and crime prevention which forms the basis for Council's program of actions.

Officers will present a report to Council for consideration annually, outlining actions taken as a result of implementing the CSCP Plan. This report will include any actions completed, progress towards completing actions and any changes required to current actions.



A safe community is described as a community where people are able to pursue, and obtain, the fullest life possible without fear or hindrance from crime and disorder. It takes both peoples' perception of safety as well as the actual crime statistics into account.

The City is dedicated to creating these safe communities for its residents and visitors together with its partners. Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility and as such it is vital to join efforts and leverage existing knowledge and expertise.

State Government

Many State Government departments and agencies play a role in crime prevention with specific programs, such as the Department of Education's 'School Watch' program or the Department of Child Protection's early intervention programs. However, its main responsibility in the field of community safety and crime prevention is executed by the WA Police who are responsible for law enforcement.

Local Government

Local government is the tier of government closest to communities and as such can play a key part in creating safe communities using its roles as planner and regulator, security service provider and as owner of infrastructure and public facilities.

Local Government can also be instrumental in facilitating safety and crime prevention strategies that assist our community in becoming stronger and more resilient. This can be achieved by bringing lead agencies who have shared goals and objectives together and sharing information with them and the broader community. Local Government can also advocate for safety programs on behalf of the community to State Government and raise awareness for existing issues in the community.

Non-Government Organisations

There are many valuable non-government organisations whose work has a positive effect on community safety and crime prevention. Many of these organisations target specific areas that contribute to crime prevention, such as early years' development programs and alcohol and drugs awareness programs.





Community Safety and Crime Prevention: working in partnership continued



City of Bayswater: statistics

Community

For community safety and crime prevention strategies to be effective, government also relies on input and knowledge from the community. People living in an area are aware of local issues and it is important to leverage this existing knowledge by conducting extensive community consultation throughout the development and implementation of a strategy. The community also has an important role by discouraging crime through ensuring doors and windows are locked and by keeping an eye out on the street or participating in programs such as 'Neighbourhood Watch.'

Crime prevention as a joint effort

Literature advocates that a community safety and crime prevention strategy is most effective if pursued in partnership by all stakeholders. It is also suggested to undertake two crime prevention approaches simultaneously to effectively counteract criminal and anti-social behaviour:

- Situational crime prevention – Actions to change the specific characteristics of the environment that may increase the likelihood of crime occurring, including improved environmental planning and design and raising community awareness of measures they can take to counteract crime.
- Social Crime Prevention – Actions aimed at reducing the desire to commit crimes through strategies and programs that address social and economic risk factors such as alcohol and drug abuse, unemployment and lack of education.

Local Government can assist in reducing social crime by facilitating, bringing lead agencies together, advocating and information sharing.

Methodology

In developing this CSCP Plan the City conducted research into crime statistics, legislative requirements and undertook extensive stakeholder consultation.

Research:

- Office of Crime Prevention: Community Safety and Crime Prevention Planning Manual
- Literature on Crime prevention approaches, theory and mechanisms
- Literature on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
- Analysis of various local, interstate and international Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plans
- Analysis of local and state-wide crime and anti-social behaviour statistics

Consultation:

- Community survey completed by 169 residents, students, business owners and visitors
- Online survey marketed through the City's social media channels and website
- One-on-one interviews with key stakeholders such as, The Shopfront, YACWA, 55 Central, Outcare Inc, Jade Lewis and Friends and internal stakeholders

The City of Bayswater is strategically located just six kilometres north-east of Perth's CBD. The City covers a land area of 32.74 square kilometers and council is responsible for the management of 10.2 kilometers of Swan River Foreshore. In 2016 the City had 66,079 residents of which 51,155 are Australian citizens, with 25,761 females and 25,396 males.

The suburbs that fall within the City of Bayswater are Bayswater, Bedford, Beechboro, Dianella (partly), Embleton, Maylands, Morley, Mount Lawley (partly), and Noranda. Maylands has the highest population density, whereas Morley is home to the Morley Galleria Shopping Centre, one of the State's largest retail centres.

Crime statistics

An analysis of WA Police crime statistics shows that residential burglaries are the most occurring crime over the last two financial years, followed by assault and motor vehicle theft.

Ranking of Crimes in 2013-2014:	Ranking of Crimes in 2014-2015:
1. Burglary - Dwelling	1. Burglary - Dwelling
2. Assault	2. Assault
3. Steal Motor Vehicle	3. Steal Motor Vehicle
4. Burglary - Other	4. Burglary - Other
5. Robbery	5. Graffiti
6. Graffiti	6. Robbery

An analysis of the complaints regarding anti-social behaviour received by the City of Bayswater show that graffiti is the main reason for filing a complaint, followed by requests to action 'drunk and disorderly conduct' and 'begging and harassment.'

To be homeless can have an enormous impact on a person and homeless people have an increased chance of becoming a victim of crime. As such the City will try to assist where possible. Homelessness can also have an impact on other members of the community as it has the potential to increase feelings of a lack of safety.

Complaints received relate to:

- | |
|--|
| 1. Graffiti |
| 2. Drunk and Disorderly Conduct |
| 3. Begging and Harassment |
| 4. Homelessness |
| 5. Vandalism |
| 6. Dealing and or use of illicit drugs |

Alcohol and drug misuse as contributors to crime and anti-social behaviour

Research conducted by the Drug and Alcohol Office has identified alcohol use and drug use as important contributors to criminal and antisocial behaviour. Statistics for the City of Bayswater show that approximately 34% of individuals aged 16 years and over are considered 'drinking at risk' of lifetime alcohol-related harm and around 35% of the 'verified domestic and non-domestic assault offences' were alcohol related in 2013. Parts of the City of Bayswater have been identified by the Department of Health's North Metropolitan Health Service as being at higher risk to alcohol related problems than the State's average. The City of Bayswater also has a higher density of liquor outlets than any other Council in WA.

The 2011 Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy labelled drug use as a serious and complex problem contributing to thousands of deaths, substantial illness, disease and injury, social and family disruption, workplace concerns, violence, crime and community safety issues. Statistics from the 2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey for WA show that meth/amphetamine use and the misuse of pharmaceuticals was higher in WA than in any other state.



As one method of community engagement to develop this plan, a survey was developed to gain a better understanding of community safety and crime prevention issues from the community as well as ideas for addressing these. The survey was available online and in hard copy and was completed by 169 participants.

General findings

- Almost 50% of the respondents generally felt either 'very safe' (10.8%) or 'safe' (39%) while spending time within the City of Bayswater. Another 38.3% felt 'average' while spending time. There are also respondents who generally felt 'unsafe' (10.2%) or even 'very unsafe' (1.8%).
- During daytime respondents felt **safest** around schools, followed by petrol stations and major shopping areas. People felt the **least safe** when visiting public amenities such as toilets, public transport and around bars.
- A slightly different result was evident for feelings of safety at night. Respondents felt **safest** at night around petrol stations, major shopping areas and local shops. At night feelings of **unsafety** are highest around public amenities, public transport and around parks and reserves.

- Almost half of the respondents believe that the crime rate in the City of Bayswater is 'average', 22% of respondents thinks it's 'high', 13% believe it to be low, 10% don't know and only a few respondents believe the crime rate to be either 'very low' or 'very high.'
- Respondents based their answer on the crime rate most often on their personal experience with crime or personal observations of crime. This explanation is used both to describe respondent's low(er) rating of crimes as for high(er) ratings of crimes. The answer is also often based on discussions with neighbours and friends, and by news coverage of crimes.
- Around 42% of respondents believe that overall criminal activity and anti-social behaviour has become more of a problem over time. A slightly smaller group of respondents (41%) believe it to have stayed about the same. 13% don't know and only a few respondents believe that overall criminal activity and anti-social behaviour has become less of a problem.
- Respondents of the survey identified house burglaries as the most likely crime to happen in the City (19%), followed by safety issues relating to drunken and disorderly behaviour (12%) and public illicit drug dealing or use (11%).

- Respondents gave many different responses to the question what they see as the main causes of crime and safety issues. The following themes were mentioned most often:
 - Drug and alcohol (ab)use and the high accessibility of alcohol has - by far - been mentioned most often as a cause to crime and safety issues;
 - This is followed by causes relating to poverty and/or unemployment;
 - Lack of lighting;
 - Lack of visible Police or security officers presence; and
 - Safety issues relating to homelessness. The last cause consisted of both safety issues brought about by homeless individuals and homeless individuals who are victims.
- The survey also asked respondents on their ideas to prevent crimes and increase safety:
 - Increasing security patrols was named most frequently to prevent crime and increase safety. From the responses it did not always become clear whether a higher Police presence was sought, a higher Rangers and Security presence was sought, or both. Respondents also mentioned stricter law enforcement and increasing CCTV as measures to be taken.

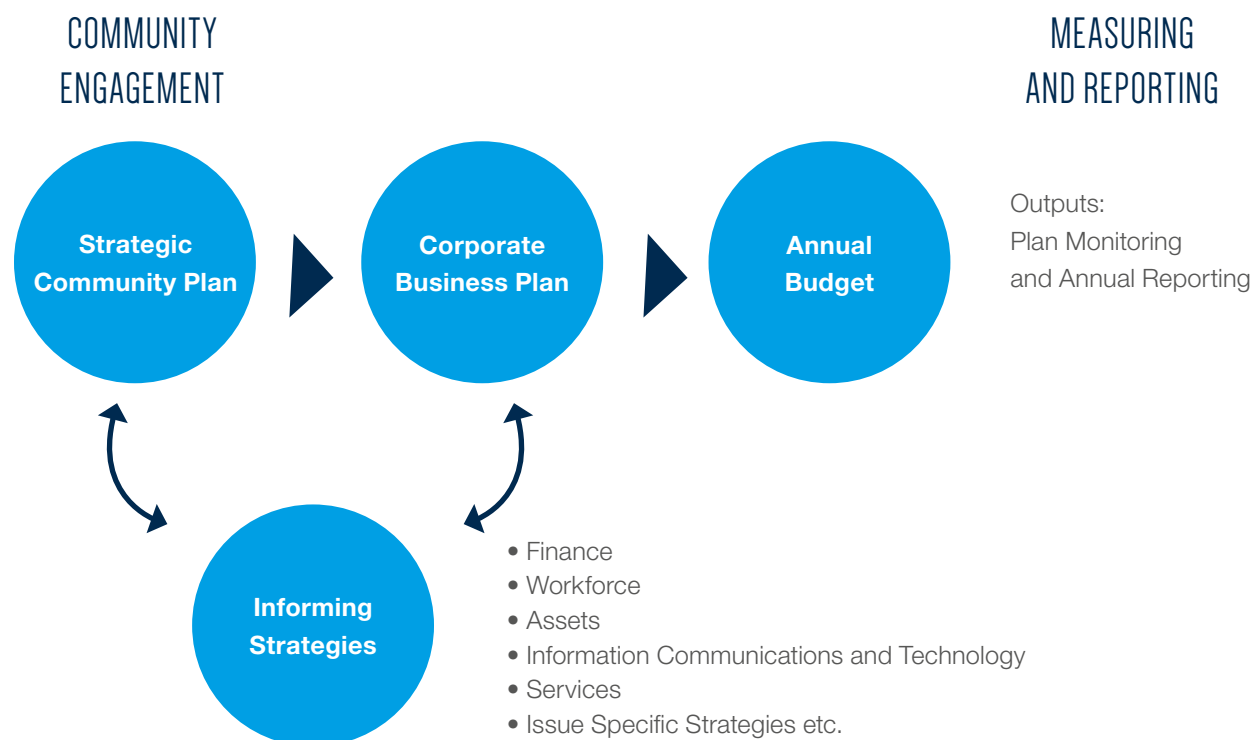
- The second most often mentioned idea was to improve lighting.
- A third idea relates to activating areas by increasing and supporting affordable events and community engagement. Respondents especially mentioned youth activities and youth skills workshops to prevent crime and increase safety. Other ideas relating to activation of areas are to stimulate integrated planning and use of public (open) spaces and to increase connectivity of road, rail, bike and pedestrian infrastructure.
- The last common theme was the connectedness of 'service organisations.' Respondents suggest improving the coordination between and the promotion of services for vulnerable people; such as people dealing with drug and alcohol addictions, mental health problems, anger management, poverty and homelessness.



The City developed the Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027 to provide a clear direction for the City to deliver improved services and outcomes for the benefit of our community. The plan has been developed with input from the community through community consultation to identify the focus areas of the strategy. This has resulted in the following five pillars for delivering services in a sustainable manner:



The City's Corporate Business Plan 2017-2021 describes the actions and programs that will help achieve the aspirations as defined for each of the five pillars.



The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan is an informing strategy derived from the strategic community plan and will be reflected in the corporate business plan and annual budget.

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan will focus on the existing actions and programs in the Corporate Business Plan that have a positive effect on creating a safe community. Additionally the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan will identify additional actions necessary to achieve the desired outcome.

Actions in the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2017-2021 will be monitored and reported against on an annual basis and the progress will be presented to Council. At the end of the four year period the plan will be reviewed and updated alongside the review of the Corporate Business Plan.

An active and engaged community

The following table outlines the actions relating to community safety from within the Corporate Business Plan 2017-2021. These actions provide guidance to the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan and will be reported on to Council through Corporate Business Plan reporting.

Strategy C1.3: Deliver a safety service, which builds a strong sense of community safety.			
Outcome: A strong sense of community through the provision of quality services and facilities.			
No.	Existing actions in Corporate Business Plan	Within existing budget?	Timeframe
C1.3.1	Review and implement the service delivery levels provided by Rangers and Security	Yes	2017-2021

Outcomes community engagement

Feedback from our community and the interviews with stakeholders in relation to this pillar highlighted concerns regarding drug and alcohol abuse, mental health issues, poverty and unemployment. It was suggested that crimes could be prevented by increasing security patrols and CCTV presence and by better connecting and promoting service organisations within the area.

Existing programs

The City already has a number of programs in place which support the community and impact social and environmental crime prevention. Programs include:

- 24/7 Security Watch Community Patrol Service;
- Community safety initiatives, such as the awareness and community education programs, the holiday watch service and security appraisals; and
- Youth Advisory Committee programs, such as the Sound Overload Battle of the Bands Competition, Youth Photographic Competition, interview skills workshops and the Urban Art Project.





Actions

Furthermore the City has committed to actions for our community to improve community safety. These actions will be reported to Council as part of reporting against this plan.

No.	Additional CSCP Plan Actions	Within existing budget?	Timeframe
1.1	Develop a comprehensive CCTV strategy for the City of Bayswater	Yes	2016-2017
1.2	Develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Bayswater and WA Police to further strengthen information sharing and reinforcing the partnership approach	Yes	2016-2017
1.3	Provide a report in order for Council to consider the funding and appointment of a dedicated Crime Prevention Officer	No	2016-2017
1.4	Promote the 'Eyes on the street' program where employees of the City report any suspicious activity they might see while working on site to the City's 24/7 Security Watch	Yes	2016-2019
1.5	Contribute towards the City wide directory of support services that lists organisations located or operating within the City that assist in combatting homelessness	Yes	2016-2017
1.6	Investigate the possibility of including community safety features in the City's 'Report it' mobile application keeping in mind the different roles and responsibilities of the police and the City	No	2016-2017
1.7	Develop a community safety campaign that provides residents with information and best practices of crime prevention initiatives around their house and properties	Yes	2016-2017
1.8	Assist Police with other community based partnerships within resources, as they become available	Yes	2016-2019

A green and sustainable environment

Outcomes community engagement

One of the key findings of the community engagement process was that good maintenance of public areas will have a positive impact on how safe people feel. Another key finding was that people would like to have more ownership of their neighbourhood and would like to be involved in strengthening community bonds and its environment. Although these findings were not specifically in relation to environmental programs, the findings can be applied to this pillar.

Existing programs

The City has a number of programs that support our natural environment and impact social and environmental crime prevention. Programs include:

- Managing and maintaining the City's parks and reserves, including active and passive reserves, dog exercise areas and natural areas; and
- Looking after our streetscapes, including road reserves and roundabouts.

Actions

Furthermore the City has committed to actions for our community to improve community safety. These actions will be reported to Council as part of reporting against this plan.

No.	Additional Actions	Within existing budget?	Timeframe
2.1	Conduct regular checks of the City's parks and reserves to ensure the necessary pruning of trees and bushes whereby improving sightlines in line with CPTED principles	Yes	2016-2019

A quality and connected built environment

The following table outlines the actions relating to community safety from within the Corporate Business Plan 2017-2021. These actions provide guidance to the CSCP Plan and will be reported on to Council through Corporate Business Plan reporting.

B.2.1: Advocate for safe and accessible public transport			
Outcome: B2 A connected community with sustainable and well maintained transport options			
No.	Existing actions in Corporate Business Plan	Within existing budget?	Timeframe
B2.1.2	Complete and implement a City-wide Local Area Traffic Management Study	Yes	2017-2021
B2.1.3	Develop and implement a Parking Management Strategy for each town/city centre.	Yes	2017-2021

Outcomes community engagement

One of the key findings of the community engagement process was that good maintenance of public areas will have a positive impact on how safe people feel. Respondents and interviewees were of the view that lack of lighting has a negative effect on crime as well. Respondents felt the least safe around public amenities, public transport and parks and reserves at night.

Existing programs

The City has a number of programs that support our built environment and impact social and environmental crime prevention. Programs include:

- Morley City Centre Masterplan;
- Maylands Activity Centre Urban Design Framework;
- Town Planning Scheme administration, updates and enquiries;
- Graffiti removal program; and
- BBQ maintenance and cleaning of the City's parks and reserves.



Actions

Furthermore the City has committed to actions for our community to improve community safety. These actions will be reported to Council as part of reporting against this plan.

No.	Additional Actions	Within existing budget?	Timeframe
3.1	Organise night time audits to decide where improved street lighting would be most beneficial	Yes	2016-2019
3.2	Continue to assess developments against and promote the principals of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles	Yes	2016-2019
3.3	Investigate whether the recent study done by 55Central in Maylands around Designing out Crime can offer opportunities for the City's other suburbs as well	Yes	2016-2017
3.4	Research the possibility of installing solar powered bollards to improve lighting around public amenities and in reserves	Yes	2017-2018
3.5	Advocate for (night time) safety audits around public transport - specifically the train and bus stations - to discuss with the Public Transport Authority what measures can be taken to improve safety.	Yes	2016-2019
3.6	Liaise with the Owners of Galleria and the Public Transport Authority to improve safety around the Morley bus station and the Maylands and Bayswater Train stations	Yes	2016-2019



A business and employment destination

The following table outlines the actions relating to community safety from within the Corporate Business Plan 2017-2021. These actions provide guidance to the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan and will be reported on to Council through Corporate Business Plan reporting.

Outcomes community engagement

Respondents and interviewees have outlined that public art and murals can contribute to their feelings of safety. Activating areas by supporting community events and the increase of night time activities is also seen as having a positive impact on crime as it brings more people on the streets. Respondents and interviewees expressed that the high accessibility of alcohol may increase crime.

Programs

The City has a number of programs that support the local economy and impact social and environmental crime prevention. Programs include:

- Regionally significant events, including the Autumn River Festival and the Avon Descent Finish Line;
- Hosting bi-annual business network events and briefings; and
- Partnering with the Small Business Centre to host business workshops.

Actions

Furthermore the City has committed to actions for our community to improve community safety. These actions will be reported to Council as part of reporting against this plan.

No.	Additional Actions	Within existing budget?	Timeframe
4.1	Assist the community in their applications for safe, suitable and quality community events	Yes	2016-2019



Open, accountable and responsive service

Outcomes community engagement

Respondents and interviewees wish to participate in their community. As such it is important that the City actively engages, consults and informs the community. For instance, respondents requested more information on the 24/7 security services the City provides, more information and promotion of available service organisations and more frequent community engagement.

Existing Programs

The City has a number of programs that support leadership and Governance and impact social and environmental crime prevention. Programs include:

- State and Federal Governments - advocacy and lobbying on behalf of the community;
- Stakeholder engagement to develop partnerships with other organisations; and
- School Education Program.

Actions

Furthermore the City has committed to actions for our community to improve community safety. These actions will be reported to Council as part of reporting against this plan

No.	Additional Actions	Within existing budget?	Timeframe
5.1	Advocate and lobby for funding of projects and regulations increasing crime prevention and community safety	Yes	2016-2019
5.2	Promote awareness of the City's 24/7 security services	Yes	2016-2019
5.3	Promote the directory of available service organisations supporting the more vulnerable members of our community and their families	Yes	2016-2019
5.4	Promote Ranger Services and related laws to the community	Yes	2016-2019
5.5	Develop a report for Council consideration providing options to fund a program for not for profit and / or community organisations to facilitate projects under partnership to prevent or reduce crime	Yes	2017-2018

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