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CENTRAL WEST POLICE DISTRICT – WESTERN SECTORS COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: 24 August 2020

VENUE: Via Telephone Conference

TIME: 10:05am

PRESENT:

Superintendent Steve Kentwell	Commander, Central West Police District
Chief Inspector Scott Rayner	Officer in Charge (Parkes), Central West Police District
Detective Chief Inspector Bruce Grassick	Crime Manager, Central West Police District
Inspector Shane Jessep	Officer in Charge (Forbes), Central West Police District
Sheridan Alexander	Executive Officer, Central West Police District
Councillor Ken Keith	Mayor, Parkes Shire Council
Kent Boyd	General Manager, Parkes Shire Council
Councillor Phyllis Miller	Mayor, Forbes Parkes Shire Council
Steve Loane	General Manager, Forbes Shire Council
Councillor John Medcalf	Mayor, Lachlan Shire Council
Greg Tory	General Manager, Lachlan Shire Council

APOLOGIES:

Chief Inspector David Cooper	Officer in Charge (Parkes), Central West Police District
Mr Phillip Donato MP	Member for Orange

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 27 April 2020 were review and outstanding actions reviewed. C/Insp. Rayner provided an overview of the incidents of stock thefts for the District. The minutes from the last the meeting were accepted, moved by John Medcalf and seconded by Insp. Jessep.

CRIME OVERVIEW – C/Insp. Grassick

An overview of the Compass Crime results for 2019/20 Financial Year for the entire Central West Police District was provided. Crime category targets are now called Community Safety Indicator (CSI).

Central West PD was over the CSI in the following crime categories:

- *Robbery* – 29 incidents (72.5%) occurred at Orange with a 58% legal action rate.
- *Break and Enter (Dwelling)* – Of the 579 incidents that occurred in 2019/20, 380 occurred in Orange (66%) with a 13% legal action rate. A number of incidents were due to recidivist or transient offenders. Operations were conducted by the Target Action Group which resulted in a number of charges for this District and for matters which occurred in other Police Districts.
- *Steal from Dwelling* – 416 incidents for the year with 120 incidents occurring at Forbes. A number of these incidents were committed by the same young offenders, police implemented a number of strategies which included working with external agencies to address the youth issues. There has also been a focus on bail compliance checks. It was discussed there has been a decline in Break and Enters as a result of more people working from home due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

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- *Stolen Motor Vehicles* – 227 incidents for the year with 61.5% occurring at Orange.
- *Frauds* - 431 incidents with 296 (67%) occurring at Orange. There was an increase in scams during Covid 19 and the District has disseminated information via social media to alert potential victims.

In relation to the Proactive targets, *Move Ons* were above the target by 14, whilst *Person Searches* and *Drug Detections* were under the target for the year. The CSI's set for the District for the current financial year have now been ratified with a slight reduction compared to last years' targets.

In relation to current Crime trends year to date (July 2020), there is only one category over the CSI which is *Sexual Assault (Adult)*. This can be attributed to an increase in the reporting of historical assaults. There has been a slight increase in *Stolen Motor Vehicles* incidents occurring mainly at Parkes, Forbes and Orange. There has been a number of *Steal from Motor Vehicle* incidents which relate to lightbars being targeted at Forbes. Strategies have been implemented and these incidents are being monitored. The District is working to increase the Proactivity results as this does result in a downturn in crime trends. In relation to the number of *Drug Detections: Supply* there has not been any major investigation into drug supply for the last 12 months. In relation *Sex Assault (Adult)* there were 6 incidents in July 2020 which were reported by an agency on behalf of a victim and then the victim does not want to take any action.

The District is doing well year to date in relation to the CSI's. In relation to crime in July for the Forbes LGA, there has been a decrease in *Steal from Dwelling* and a slight increase in *Frauds* due to scams and unauthorised access of funds. There were 16 incidents of *Malicious Damage*, 11 at Forbes and 5 at Eugowra.

In relation to crime in the Parkes LGA, there has been 22 incidents of *Malicious Damage* in July (includes 3 at Peak Hill). There were 16 incidents of *Steal from Motor Vehicle* with persons of interest being identified and targeted.

ADVICE FROM COUNCILS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Parkes Shire Council indicated the Elvis Festival has been rescheduled at this stage from January to 10-14 March 2021 with a decision to be made by the end of September as to whether it will go ahead.
- Parkes Shire Council provided an update on a number of projects such as the Newell Highway Bypass, Northparkes Mines expansion and the industrial precinct. Discussion held regarding Covid 19 checks of incoming contractors, it was agreed this needs to be looked at.
- Lachlan Shire Council provided advice on a proposed construction depot and upcoming road works.
- Forbes Shire Council asked police were having any issues with the council CCTV and Insp. Jessep advised that there were some minor user issues which have now been addressed. The cameras are working well and provide a good coverage of the Forbes CBD.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Parkes Shire Council

- Kent Boyd indicated there were a number of abandon cars on the Newell Highway, some of which had police tape around them but had been on the side of the road for some time. C/Insp. Rayner indicated that it may be the responsibility of the insurance company involved to arrange removal, if not then it may fall back to the councils to have the vehicles

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removed. C/ Insp. Rayner indicated that he would follow up this issue and provide further advice to the Parkes Council if necessary.

ACTION: C/Insp. Rayner to follow up abandon vehicles on the Newell Highway regarding removal.

Lachlan Shire Council

- Greg Tory asked if the reduction in Pro-activity results were due to the staffing shortage currently being experienced at Condobolin. It was advised that Forbes and Parkes are assisting in the Condobolin Sector during this time. There has been a decrease in offending due to Covid 19 restrictions and the closure of Licensed Premises for a number of months earlier in the year.

The shortages in rostering and on call arrangements are being addressed at present and some of the vacant positions will be filled with officers transferring into the sector in October/November.

Forbes Shire Council

- Steven Loane asked about the Stock Theft statistics for the Central West PD and whether a break down of incidents could be included in the Crime Overview. C/Insp. Rayner indicated this could be done and provided an overview of the Rural Crime incidents which have seen a reduction overall from the previous year. Across the three LGA's it is mainly sheep that were being targeted then cattle and goats. The incidents of theft are not always detected straight away by the owners and therefore reporting of theft is estimated as to when it may have occurred and how many are stolen.

Operation Stock Check was launched statewide this month for a whole of police approach to stock theft. The Operation is a high visibility strategy which will allow officers of all ranks and locations to inspect vehicles carrying livestock to identify and target the movement of stolen stock. The Forbes Council indicated the Forbes Saleyard could be utilised by police as an impoundment area for confiscated stock if needed

ACTION: Rural Crime stats to be included in the Crime Overview for future meetings.

- Phyllis Miller asked if solar mobile CCTV camera would be useful. It was discussed that whilst these types of cameras were not covert, they could be a deterrent in problem areas and often beneficial to monitor the movement of offenders.

Covid 19 – Further discussions held concerning Covid 19 restrictions and incoming essential workers to the community. It was discussed that whilst the Victorian and Queensland borders are closed, NSW was not in lock down. The borders are being patrolled and daily checks on movements are being conducted however the onus is on individuals to self-isolate when required. Workplaces such as the mines are conducting their own temperature testing of employees. It was discussed that some contractors are coming into our community via private charters and such information should be provided to police by the councils.

Youth Programs – The Active Citizens Program is funded for this year and is continuing with Senior Constable Greef overseeing this Districts program. The 'Fit for Life' program is to be run at the PCYC at Parkes, Forbes and Orange. The programs may involve boxing or dancing activities for the children in homecare which is aimed at deterring them from becoming involved in crime.

Phyllis Miller indicated that Forbes Shire Council Youth Officer has been involved in the introduction of a Youth Action Team. Greg Tory indicated similar programs are being run by the Lachlan Shire Council which, however, progression of the program has been hampered by the current Covid 19 restrictions. Further details about any Youth Programs being run by councils can be referred to Senior Constable Greef, Youth Liaison Officer at Parkes.

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Youth Actions Meetings (YAMs) – The YAMs are currently being piloted by two Police Districts and evaluated by BOSCAR. The meetings provide a co-ordinated approach to addressing the needs of young people who are at risk of being either a victim or an offender of crime. This District may commence YAMs in 2021.

Staff at Condobolin and Tottenham – Lachlan Council indicated they had previously made representations to the local member for the reclassification of these sectors to special remote to assist in attracting police to the area. There has been no progress on this issue to date.

RCI Team – Forbes Council acknowledged the good work by S/C McGrath and the RCI Team with the commencement of the Saleyards at Forbes.

Peak Hill Sectors – The officer attached to Trundle is currently restricted and working at Parkes. S/C Budd is currently being rostered to cover the sector. The Sergeants' position at Peak Hill has not been filled as yet.

Meeting Closed at 11am – next meeting to be held in November 2020, date to be advised.

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