Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan
2014–2016
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Introduction

The City of Subiaco aims to be a vibrant, safe and accessible city, and a desirable place for people to live, work, visit and play. To this end, the city endeavours to use its resources and capabilities to provide and support community safety and crime prevention initiatives throughout the community.

Primary responsibility for law enforcement and crime prevention rests with state government agencies such as the Western Australia Police; however, local government authorities play a vital role in education, prevention and support.

To achieve these goals, the city first entered into a Community Safety and Crime Prevention partnership agreement with the state government in 2004. This agreement was the foundation for the city’s first Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy (2006), which provided a framework for the delivery of community safety initiatives.

Following this initial strategy, the city moved to develop a biennial plan, the first of which was the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2011–2013. While the city’s agreement with the state government is no longer in place (this agreement was managed through the Office of Crime Prevention, which no longer exists), the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2011–2013 was found to be a useful tool for the city to strategically use its resources. In particular, the two year timeline of the plan was found to encourage rapid uptake of projects and to ensure a focus on safety in initiatives across the city.

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2014–2016 details new initiatives to build on past successes and further advance community safety in the City of Subiaco. The plan is intended to clearly identify the responsibilities of each branch for safety and crime prevention initiatives throughout the city and to foster an approach to community safety that is wholly embraced by the community and the city.

Focus areas

Six focus areas were identified as part of the Think2030 visioning process and are documented in the Strategic Community Plan. They are:

1. Our sense of community
2. Parks, open spaces and places
3. A unique destination
4. The built environment
5. An effective and integrated transport system
6. Council leadership

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2014–2016 aligns with focus areas one, three, four and five.

Objectives and strategies

Each focus area includes objectives that describe what the community wants to achieve and strategies that guide how to achieve these objectives.

Corporate Business Plan

The Corporate Business Plan outlines the city’s key priorities and actions over the next four years. It is structured around the six key focus areas and sets out the specific actions that will deliver on the objectives and strategies outlined in the Strategic Community Plan.

Informing strategies, issue-specific plans and operational plans

The Corporate Business Plan links through to a range of supporting and informing policies, strategies and plans. These plans are developed in strategic and operational areas and are integrated into the overall framework (Figure 1).

This Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2014–2016 is one of the issue specific plans.

The plan is consistent with the requirements of Section 1.3(b) of the Local Government Act 2005, which states ‘in carrying out its functions a local government is to use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity’.

Monitoring, review and evaluation

Actions in the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2014–2016 either stand alone in this document and/or are reflected in branch operational plans. All actions are monitored and reported against on a regular basis. In accordance with the city’s Planning and Reporting Framework, progress of actions outlined in this document will be reviewed biannually and reported to the City of Subiaco’s executive leadership team and Council. The city’s target is to achieve 80 per cent or more of the actions scheduled in each financial year. Highlights of achievements will be included in the City of Subiaco’s annual report. The plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary at the end of the two-year implementation period.

Integrated planning for the City of Subiaco

All local governments in Western Australia were required to produce a plan for the future by 30 June 2013 according to new regulations under SS.56(1) of the Local Government Act 1995 as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. As part of this framework, the City of Subiaco was required to develop a minimum of two key documents, including:

1. Strategic Community Plan that clearly links the community’s aspirations with the council’s vision and long term strategy
2. Corporate Business Plan that integrates resourcing plans and specific council plans with the Strategic Community Plan.

After extensive engagement with the community through the Think2030 visioning process, the City of Subiaco’s Strategic Community Plan was endorsed by council in April 2012.

The city’s Corporate Business Plan, which integrates the community aspirations identified as part of Think2030 into local government operations and service delivery, was endorsed by council in June 2012. This plan is the city’s contract with the community.
Focus area one :: Our sense of community

Safety and crime prevention in Western Australia

‘The safety of the people shall be the highest law’
Marcus Tullius Cicero

A safe, crime-free community is an ideal everyone holds dear. In Western Australia, and in Subiaco, there are several organisations and levels of government working towards making our communities as safe as possible, including the Western Australia (WA) Police, the Government of Western Australia and the Australian Federal Government, as well as several branches at the City of Subiaco and a series of non-governmental organisations.

The WA Police has the primary responsibility for crime reduction in Western Australia. The WA Police provides response to crime, has the powers to apprehend and charge criminals, and is the expert on reducing crime. Subiaco falls into the area of Wembley Police Station, which also responds to incidents in Cambridge, Vincent and Nedlands. The police Community Engagement Division and Crime Prevention and Diversity Units operate to reduce crime in other ways. The Community Engagement Division manages community initiatives to encourage citizens of Western Australia to participate in crime prevention, such as the Neighbourhood Watch and ewatch initiatives. The division, along with the Crime Prevention and Diversity Units, also provides support in the form of advice and grant-based funding to organisations, including the City of Subiaco to assist them in developing their own community safety and crime prevention initiatives.

Departments of the Government of Western Australia and the Australian Federal Government also contribute to community safety and crime prevention by providing significant grant funding for identified priorities ranging from street lighting improvements to the Black Spot road management program. These funding schemes can be used to develop major projects like the City of Subiaco’s installation of a secure taxi rank on Hay Street, near the corner of Rokeby Road, Subiaco.

Finally, non-government organisations such as Constable Care and the Injury Control Council of Western Australia (ICCWA) operate in specialised areas of community safety and/or crime prevention. The City of Subiaco partners with these organisations to ensure that their specialised skills and programs benefit residents, as well as contributing to their ongoing organisational operations. These partnerships result in, for example, the City of Subiaco’s participation in Community Safety Month every October, and the education of our children by Constable Care in local schools.

Local government’s role in community safety and crime prevention is primarily one of education and support, ensuring that individuals are able to limit unsafe situations as much as possible. This is done through partnerships with the various organisations indicated, as well as other individual local governments and the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).
Emergency management and recovery

Emergency management and recovery is Western Australia’s system to manage large scale emergencies, such as a bushfire, severe storm, or other emergency. The Emergency Management Act 2005 outlines the responsibilities of different organisations in the event of an emergency, and became effective in 2005. The Act places a responsibility on local governments to:

1. establish an active Local Emergency Management Committee
2. prepare and maintain Local Emergency Management Arrangements and manage recovery activities within their districts
3. appoint a local recovery coordinator for that purpose.

In relation to items one and two above, the following local governments participate in a regional Local Emergency Management Committee and a common set of Local Emergency Management Arrangements:

- Subiaco
- Cambridge
- Claremont
- Cottesloe
- Mosman Park
- Nedlands
- Peppermint Grove
- Vincent.

These local governments have agreed to prepare Local Emergency Management Arrangements with the view that recovery is best managed by the local government in which the emergency has occurred. Thus, there is a need for each local government to establish its own recovery plan.

Recovery is defined under the Act as:

‘the support of emergency affected communities in the reconstruction and restoration of physical infrastructure, the environment and community, psychological and economic wellbeing’.

The City of Subiaco has developed a comprehensive plan and a set of standard operating procedures that will significantly enhance its capacity to manage recovery from subsequent events.

The city has developed an extensive list of actions related to each focus area of the Strategic Community Plan. Some of these actions are included in the city’s Corporate Business Plan, and as such are the city’s top priorities for community safety and crime prevention. However, the city has also committed to additional actions not included in the Corporate Business Plan. Please see the table on the next page for a full summary of community safety and crime prevention actions that relate to the Strategic Community Plan’s focus area one: Our sense of community.

Objective two:

A diverse, inclusive community where all members enjoy a sense of belonging and feel safe

Strategy 1.2.5  Create and maintain a safe environment for the community.

Community outcomes

A feeling of safety at all times throughout the city. A sense of being looked out for by the community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>2014–15</th>
<th>2015–16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Participate on the Western Central Local Emergency Management Committee</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Prepare Local Emergency Recovery Arrangements for the City of Subiaco</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Exercise, review and maintain the Local Emergency Recovery Arrangements</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Participate in relevant crime prevention initiatives run by the WA Police and WALGA</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Keep abreast of opportunities for collaboration on small to medium projects</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Consult annually with the community regarding community safety and crime prevention in Subiaco</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Participate and provide input into the operational planning meetings of the WA Football Commission</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Review the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan biennially</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Host biannual meetings of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan internal working group, with representatives from all relevant branches</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Establish a database of the City of Subiaco branch policies that directly or indirectly impact on crime and safety and ensure these policies are applied, enforced and reviewed as appropriate</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Revisit the ‘Eyes on the Street’ training program in order to develop an implementation system suited to the City of Subiaco</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Every five years, engage a consultant to conduct a comprehensive safety audit and provide recommendations on how to improve community safety in Subiaco</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Explore opportunities to expand community safety related events, volunteering and community organisations</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Use up-to-date statistics and data to provide targeted community safety and crime prevention initiatives</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>City of Subiaco staff to meet regularly with the WA Police to ensure a coordinated approach to maintaining safety in Subiaco</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Through community engagement, and with the support of WA Police, develop a set of key indicators of community safety in Subiaco, to be included in the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan review in 2016</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Focus area three :: A unique destination

Alcohol-related harm
The widespread and growing use of alcohol in the community is a contributor to several different types of harm. The ICCWA estimates that four out of five Australians over the age of fourteen years drink alcohol. The high level of alcohol consumption throughout the community contributes to disability and death through injury, violence, suicide and homicide. It also increases the risk of stroke, heart and vascular diseases, liver cirrhosis and some cancers. Across Western Australia, risky alcohol consumption is estimated to cost taxpayers at least $1.5 billion per year.

According to legislation, local government’s role in managing alcohol-related harm is in making recommendations to the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor regarding the granting of new liquor licenses. The city also has responsibilities regarding excessive noise and health regulations in public buildings that affect licensed premises. Although these actions are not usually designed specifically to reduce alcohol-related harm, they will often have this effect.

The city also works to reduce alcohol-related harm as part of its community development work. In the past, this has included events focused on reducing alcohol-related harm, education campaigns and participation in state and federal government programs.

In 2004, the City of Subiaco also convened a Licensed Premises Working Group (LPWG). This working group includes representatives from the City of Subiaco, local licensed premises, the WA Police and other relevant stakeholders. The LPWG acts as a communications avenue between police, licensed premises and local government, and allows all parties to work together to overcome identified issues, including alcohol-related harm, while at the same time promoting Subiaco as ‘a place to be’.

Graffiti and crimes against businesses
In developing the City of Subiaco’s Strategic Community Plan, the community and city staff agreed on a vision for Subiaco as a unique destination.

‘In 2030 Subiaco is a popular destination for everyone. There is a lively atmosphere, an exciting range of entertainment options and local businesses are thriving.’

City of Subiaco’s Strategic Community Plan

Two types of crime that have the potential to impact this vision are graffiti and crimes against businesses. In response, the city has developed community safety and crime prevention initiatives targeted to reduce these types of crimes.

In 2007, the City of Subiaco began providing a graffiti removal service. This service was aimed at reducing the amount of graffiti visible in the city and the length of time that the graffiti was visible for. Research has also suggested that an efficient graffiti removal service reduces instances of new graffiti, so this measure was hoped to reduce new graffiti as well as to remove older graffiti. Figure 2 shows the cost of graffiti removal since the service began, and shows a reduction in cost of removal over time that corresponds to a reduction in the amount of graffiti removed.

Figure 2 :: Cost of graffiti removal per financial year since 2007–08

Crimes against businesses are a significant part of incidents in the City of Subiaco. Figure 3 shows nearly half of all burglaries committed involve commercial premises – a rate of commercial burglary much higher than the same period for all of Western Australia (Figure 4). As these premises are often open to the public and can contain valuable goods, they can be prime targets for criminals. However, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles (refer to focus area four) and crime prevention behaviours by staff at commercial properties can significantly reduce a business’s vulnerability to crime.

Figure 3 :: Burglaries in the City of Subiaco
November 2012 to May 2013

Figure 4 :: Burglaries in Western Australia
November 2012 to May 2013

In 2006, the city cooperated with other western suburbs local governments and the then Office of Crime Prevention to launch an initiative called Business Beat. Business Beat aims to provide police and local government crime prevention expertise to businesses throughout the western suburbs to reduce the vulnerability of businesses to crime. Since 2006, the city and WA Police have worked together to deliver a range of Business Beat materials (available on the City of Subiaco website www.subiaco.wa.gov.au) and information sessions.
Please see the table below for a full summary of community safety and crime prevention actions that relate to the Strategic Community Plan’s focus area three: A unique destination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective one:</th>
<th>A wide variety of accessible entertainment and hospitality options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Strategy 3.1.2** Support a diverse range of dining and drinking venues, both indoors and outdoors.

**Community outcomes**
The opportunity to attend local events, festivals and other forms of entertainment at a variety of venues.
A thriving nightlife that is not just based on bar culture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>2014–15</th>
<th>2015–16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Provide streetscape improvements in the town centre</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional actions that contribute to the achievement of the strategy**

1. Coordinate internal efforts to apply, enforce and regularly review the City of Subiaco branch policies relevant to licensed premises ✓ ✓
2. With stakeholders, explore methods of improving the ability of Subiaco’s late night visitors to safely exit the area ✓ ✓
3. Keep abreast of alcohol-related initiatives run by the Drug and Alcohol Office with a view to participating in relevant campaigns ✓ ✓
4. Maintain regular audits of licensed premises ✓ ✓

**Strategy 3.2.2** Support and encourage both new and existing locally-owned businesses to remain in the city.

**Community outcomes**
The ability to own and run a local business.
A range of locally-owned businesses to frequent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>2014–15</th>
<th>2015–16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Maintain the Business Beat program, aimed at educating business owners in crime prevention principles</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional actions that contribute to the achievement of the strategy**

1. Ensure waste collection in the town centre meets the expectations of business and the community (frequency, bin placement) ✓ ✓
2. Increase frequency of high pressure bin and pavement cleaning ✓
3. Explore and implement where possible the use of public art installations to prevent or reduce the occurrence of graffiti ✓ ✓
Focus area four :: The built environment

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

The physical environment can exert a direct influence on crime settings by delineating territories, reducing or increasing accessibility by the creation or elimination of boundaries and circulation networks, and by facilitating surveillance by the citizenry and the police’

Schlomo Angel, Ph.D.

The planning and design of places, spaces and buildings can assist in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour because people are less likely to behave in an anti-social manner if they perceive themselves as standing out or being watched. By improving lighting, fencing, landscaping or surveillance, it is possible to reduce the tendency of people to commit crime or anti-social behaviour. Improving these characteristics can also make it more likely that an offender is caught or seen in the act, and thereby apprehended. Conversely, for those not considering anti-social behaviour, improvements in these characteristics can improve public perception of safety. It is important to note that crime cannot be entirely designed out of an environment, nor can all crime be addressed through environmental design. The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan focuses on reducing crimes including:

- theft of and from vehicles
- breaking and entering
- robbery
- assault
- violence.

It also focuses on reducing anti-social activities such as public disorder, graffiti, loafing and public urination. Figure 5 shows the rates of different crimes in Subiaco since 2005–06. By using this data, the city can identify opportunities for new initiatives in response to changing crime patterns over time.

Please see the table below for a full summary of community safety and crime prevention actions that relate to the Strategic Community Plan’s focus area four: The built environment.

### Figure 5 :: Specific crimes in Subiaco 2005–06 to 2011–12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Burglary (dwelling)</th>
<th>Burglary (other)</th>
<th>Assault</th>
<th>Robbery</th>
<th>Theft of and from vehicles</th>
<th>Breaking and entering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005–06</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006–07</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007–08</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008–09</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009–10</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010–11</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–12</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Community outcomes

**Focus area five :: An effective and integrated transport system**

Traffic management programs

With a fatality rate in 2012 of 7.7 fatalities per 100,000 of population, Western Australia’s road fatality rate continues to be the worst of any state. In the metropolitan region, particular items of concern include pedestrian and motorcycle safety.

As part of its focus on community safety, the City of Subiaco participates in national initiatives designed to improve road safety. The Black Spot Program is one such initiative that aims to improve road safety across Australia and reduce the significant trauma and suffering of crash victims and their loved ones. This program continues to consolidate the partnership between the state and local governments by ensuring the community is provided with a road system that is safe for all road users. The program targets existing potentially hazardous locations such as intersections, mid-block section and short sections of road.

At a local level, the city’s projects are nominated if they satisfy the criteria for Black Spot funding. The criteria are based on the number of accidents per year over a five year period. The City of Subiaco uses federal government funding to administer a site-specific treatment that has the greatest chance of success.

Please see the table below for a full summary of community safety and crime prevention actions that relate to the Strategic Community Plan’s focus area five: An effective and integrated transport system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective one:</th>
<th>A road management system that meets the needs of all users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 5.1.1</td>
<td>Manage and plan our road networks to reduce congestion, while incorporating the increasing population and major developments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Community outcomes**

Reduce congestion and increase safety on our roads for all users.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Continue maintenance and improvements through initiatives such as the Black Spot Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategy 5.1.2** Reduce the impact of traffic on local roads.

**Community outcomes**

Reduce congestion and increase safety on our roads for all users.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Address high risk locations through local area traffic management treatments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Objective two:**

A sustainable city that accommodates the increasing population, whilst maintaining the valued character

**Strategy 4.2.2** Work to ensure appropriate infrastructure exists to support increased density.