

Lake Macquarie Crime Prevention Strategy 2015 – 2018

Contents

Forward	p3
Introduction	p7
Role of Local Government	p8
Role and context of the Lake Macquarie Crime Prevention Strategy 2015 – 2018	p9
1. Crime Profile for Lake Macquarie Local Government Area	p10
1.1 Local Crime Priorities	p10
1.1.1 Crime Trends - Lake Macquarie Local Government Area	p10
1.2 Selection of Crime Priorities for Lake Macquarie	p13
1.2.1 Analysis of Break & Enter Dwelling Offences for Lake Macquarie	p14
1.2.2 Analysis of Steal from Dwelling Offences for Lake Macquarie	p14
1.2.3 Analysis of Steal from Motor Vehicle Offences for Lake Macquarie	p15
1.2.4 Analysis of Malicious Damage Offences for Lake Macquarie	p15
1.2.5 Analysis of Assault – Domestic Violence for Lake Macquarie	p16
1.3 Situational analysis	p17
1.4 Stakeholders	p20
1.5 Community engagement	p21
1.5.1 Lake Macquarie Community Safety Survey	p21
2. Actions and Implementation	p23
2.1 Residential Burglary	p23
2.2 Steal from Motor Vehicle	p25
2.3 Malicious Damage	p27
2.4 Assault – Domestic Violence	p29
3. Crime Prevention Strategy Action Plans	p31
3.1 Residential Burglary Action Plan	p31
3.2 Steal from Motor Vehicle Action Plan	p32
3.3 Malicious Damage	p32
3.4 Assault – Domestic Violence	p35

4. Monitoring and evaluation	p36
4.1 Monitoring	p36
4.2 Evaluation and data collection	p38
References	p40
Appendices	p42
A.1 Findings of community safety survey	p42
A.2 Age of community safety survey participants	p46
A.3 Suburb of residence of community safety survey participants	p47
Version control statement	p48

Forward from the Mayor of Lake Macquarie

Forward from NSW Police, Superintendent Lake Macquarie Local Area Command

Acronyms

AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AGD	Attorney General's Department
AFZ	Alcohol free zone
AFR	Alcohol free reserve
CBD	Central Business District
CoAG	Council of Australian Governments
CPS	Crime Prevention Strategy
CPTED	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
CSPC	Community Safety Precinct Committee
DCP	Development Control Plan
DV	Domestic Violence
LAC	Local Area Command
LGA	Local Government Area
LMLAC	Lake Macquarie Local Area Command
LMCPS	Lake Macquarie Crime Prevention Strategy
LMCC	Lake Macquarie City Council
LMCSS	Lake Macquarie Community Safety Survey
NMVTRC	National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council
NSW	New South Wales
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas

Introduction

In 2012, Lake Macquarie City Council adopted *Our Shared Vision – Community Strategic Plan 2013-2023* on behalf of the community of Lake Macquarie (LMCC 2012). The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) represents the partnership between Council and the people of Lake Macquarie to achieve the shared vision for the city. This plan outlines the main priorities of the community and sets out the long-term strategies developed to respond to these priorities. Consistently throughout the consultative and community engagement phases of the plan's development, community stakeholders indicated the importance of crime prevention and community safety to the community. As a result, the CSP clearly identifies a *safe and healthy community* as a priority for the community and as an area for action by Council (LMCC 2012: Section 4.2.2). The development of this crime prevention strategy is a key deliverable in relation to the achievement of outcomes articulated in the plan.

As such, creating a safer community is a priority for Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC). LMCC seeks to achieve this priority through adopting a strategic evidence-based approach to allocation of resources and development of partnerships with those that share a stake in making Lake Macquarie a safer community. The Lake Macquarie Crime Prevention Strategy (LMCPS) is a holistic response to the achievement of this community priority. The LMCPS strategy focus' on the achievement of this priority through:

- Reduction of targeted crime activity in Lake Macquarie;
- Reduction of the fear of crime across the City;
- Strengthening collaboration between government departments, businesses and community groups; and
- Ensure the development and adoption of a crime prevention plan that encompasses broad community support.

"Crime prevention refers to the range of strategies that are implemented by individuals, communities, businesses, non-government organisations and all levels of government to target the various social and environmental factors that increase the risk of crime, disorder and victimisation" (AIC 2012, p12).

This strategy relies in part on the findings of a key research report conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) contracted by NSW Government (Department of Justice) to undertake a systematic review of crime prevention interventions suitable for implementation by local government. This report identifies crime prevention interventions that are supported by evidence of effectiveness and that may be implemented by local government (AIC 2012). This report importantly recognises the role of local government in crime prevention at a community level when it says:

"Local government are also often the lead agency in the development of local crime prevention plans, which identify and prioritise concerns about community safety and crime prevention in a local government area, and identify key action areas and responsibility for these actions. Local crime prevention plans provide a useful framework to better coordinate various initiatives directed at the causes of crime, facilitate increased cooperation and collaboration between key stakeholders, and ensure a comprehensive approach to local crime problems. They are an important mechanism for engaging the local community in strategies to address local crime and safety issues" (AIC 2012, p21).

It is important to state that the development of this strategic response takes into account the limited capacity and resources available to Council deliver services and facilities. To this end, the Lake Macquarie Crime Prevention Strategy 2015 – 2018 identifies where both internal collaboration and external partnership may exist to achieve stated outcomes. There are circumstances which might prevent the achievement of outcomes which are beyond the control of Council, but every effort will be made for the satisfactory completion of outcomes identified in this strategy.

The role of Local Government

Local government has a major role in community safety and crime prevention. This reflects a growing recognition that local councils are well placed to lead community crime prevention initiatives (AIC 2012). Some of the reasons include:

- Research shows that a great deal of crime is very local in nature, and there is growing evidence about the increased effectiveness of crime prevention activities developed at a local level;
- Local government is well placed to coordinate and manage crime prevention responses across the community through its existing mechanisms such as community consultative processes;
- Local government is the level of government closest to and reflective of the needs of communities. Therefore, there is an increasing community expectation that 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; and
- Local government frequently has the most appropriate management infrastructure and skill base for delivering the multi-agency programs that are often required.

It should be noted that the literature on crime prevention while acknowledging the important role of Local Government, acknowledges Local Government's limited ability to effect change:

"Experience has shown that local government, typically given the responsibility for leading and coordinating local crime prevention activity, has little control over the actions of other levels of government working at the local level and even less control over higher level policies or resource allocation that may have an impact of crime in their communities. Local government does have more control over factors that influence the opportunities for crime to occur through its various responsibilities in areas such as managing public space and building design, providing community recreational services and developing policies that affect local businesses" (AIC 2012).

The role and context of the LMCPS 2015 – 2018

The Lake Macquarie Crime Prevention Strategy 2015 - 2018 will focus on actions that reduce identified crime activity using a *situational crime prevention* approach. This strategy has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Department of Justice Guidelines for developing a Crime Prevention Strategy (NSW AGD 2011). Once adopted by Council, this strategy will be submitted to the NSW Department of Justice for endorsement. If receiving endorsement, the option is open to Lake Macquarie City Council to submit a grant application to assist with the delivery of the strategy under Department of Justice's Safer Communities Compact program.

Good practise dictates that crime prevention at a community level should focus on *situational crime prevention* approach;

"Situational crime prevention is based upon the premise that crime is often opportunistic and aims to modify contextual factors to limit the opportunities for offenders to engage in criminal behaviour. Situational prevention comprises a range of measures that highlight the importance of targeting very specific forms of crime in certain circumstances. This involves identifying, manipulating and controlling the situational or environmental factors associated with certain types of crime. It is also based upon assumptions regarding the nature of offending and of offenders" (AIC 2012, p13).

Literature on crime prevention classifies situational crime prevention techniques into five broad categories that are based on targeting the motivations and behaviour of offenders to act as a deterrent (Cornish & Clarke 2003 in AIC 2012, p13). These five categories determine the nature of the actions identified in this strategy:

- increasing the effort involved in offending;
- increasing the risk associated with offending;
- reducing the rewards that come from committing a crime;
- reducing situational factors that influence the likelihood that an individual will offend; and
- removing excuse-making opportunity for offending behaviour.

This document identifies a range of actions / initiatives adopting a situational crime prevention approach to specific crime activity across the city of Lake Macquarie. It has four main components:

1. Establishing a Crime Profile for Lake Macquarie and prioritising crime targeted by the strategy;
2. Strategic response to crime categories identified and targeted;
3. Method of evaluating and monitoring actions undertaken; and
4. Action plans to address the crime categories identified.

The actions / initiatives proposed in this strategy are in addition to the other crime prevention and community safety activities currently undertaken by Lake Macquarie City Council. Council's Community Planner for Safer Communities is responsible for undertaking and coordinating the achievement of these activities on behalf of Council including:

- Participation in regional safety meetings;
- Incorporating CPTED strategies into planning processes;
- Supporting and promoting community safety initiatives;
- Maintaining and strengthening partnerships to resolve graffiti issues;
- Responding to community concerns about anti-social behaviour and malicious damage; and
- Providing information and education about crime prevention.

1. Crime Profile

1.1 Local Crime Priorities

An analysis of crime activity in Lake Macquarie provided by Lake Macquarie Local Area Command (LMLAC 2014) and statistical information available through the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics (BOCSAR 2014) have been used to develop this crime profile. After further discussion and agreement with NSW Police the following two priority crime categories have been identified and will be targeted by the Lake Macquarie Crime Prevention Strategy (LMCPS).

- Steal from Dwelling / Break & Enter Dwelling (or Residential Burglary* – AIC 2012)
- Steal from Motor Vehicle

* As identified in the literature (AIC 2012) *break and enter—dwelling* and *stealing from dwelling* offences are similar in nature and categorisation. Given the similarity of these crimes and for the purpose of this strategy, the terminology adopted by the literature, *residential burglary* will be used to refer to both break and enter—dwelling and stealing from dwelling offences.

The rationale for selecting these crime categories arises from:

- a) An analysis of Bureau of Crime Statistics data for crime activity in Lake Macquarie demonstrate that these crime categories warrant specific attention.
- b) The similar nature of the two crime categories *Steal from Dwelling* and *Break & Enter Dwelling* means that strategies implemented as part of the action plan would be likely to yield positive outcomes for both crime categories under the heading *Residential Burglary** (AIC 2012).
- c) Police report that the proceeds of *Steal from Dwelling* and *Steal from Motor Vehicle* offences are being utilised to commit crime in other categories (i.e. Fraud, Steal Motor Vehicle). Targeting these two categories would be likely to result in a reduction of a broader range of crime activity across the region.

In addition to the two priority crime categories identified through consultation with NSW Police, the crime categories of *Malicious Damage* and *Assault – Domestic Violence* have also been included due to the high rate of occurrence (see Table 1.1) and the continuing commitment of Council to address these crime categories through established partnerships and operational plans (see Action & Implementation Section 2.3).

As part of the development of this strategy LMCC undertook a community consultation process to obtain feedback from community about their perceptions of crime and their views about good practice actions for the prevention of priority crime categories identified in this strategy. The findings of the community consultation (Section 1.5) confirm the selection of *Steal from Motor Vehicle* and *Malicious Damage* crime categories targeted in this strategy. The community consultation did not identify *Residential Burglary* as a crime activity requiring attention, however this in contrast to the evidence presented.

The following analysis of crime statistics provided by NSW Police, Lake Macquarie Local Area Command, the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research and the community of Lake Macquarie confirms this conclusion.

1.1.1 Crime Trends - Lake Macquarie Local Government Area

Generally, Lake Macquarie fares well when compared with NSW averages for crime activity across a range of crime categories (BOCSAR 2015). The statistical information reported by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research varies slightly from statistical information provided by NSW Police, Lake Macquarie Local Area Command. Overall, the statistical information is consistent despite these small variances.

The information presented (Table 1) indicates that there has been a decline in crime activity in all categories except for domestic violence which is recorded as stable across the latest three reporting years from October 2011 until September 2014. The largest improvement can be seen in the categories of *break and enter – non dwelling*, *robbery* and *motor vehicle theft*. The categories where there has been the least reportable improvement are *assault*, *steal from person* and *steal from dwelling*.

The most prevalent crime activities in the Lake Macquarie LGA continue to be *malicious damage*, *steal from motor vehicle* and *break and enter – dwelling*. This confirms the selection of these crime categories as priority areas for actions in this strategy.

Crime Activity / Category	Occurrence 2011-2012 Year	Occurrence 2012-2013 Year	Occurrence 2013-2014 Year	3 Year Variance	3 Year Trend
Assault (Alcohol Related)	572	540	489	- 83	Fall 14%
Assault (Non–DV)	852	755	717	- 135	Fall 16%
Assault (DV)	693	789	693	0	Stable
Break and Enter – Dwelling	1062	1021	820	- 242	Fall 23%
Break and Enter – Non Dwelling	713	601	344	- 369	Fall 52%
Malicious Damage	2702	2311	1975	- 727	Fall 27%
Robbery	92	82	59	- 33	Fall 46%
Steal from Dwelling	609	598	551	- 58	Fall 10%
Steal from Motor Vehicle	1660	1549	1290	- 370	Fall 22%
Steal from Person	107	104	97	- 10	Fall 9%
Steal from Retail Store	703	547	586	- 117	Fall 17%
Motor Vehicle Theft	786	727	502	- 284	Fall 36%

(Table 1)

For the purposes of examining and understanding identified priority crime category trends and behaviour in Lake Macquarie, three 'like' local government areas have been selected (i.e. Lake Macquarie, Newcastle and Maitland). In addition to the selected LGAs being located in the Hunter region, they are also identified from 'Group 5' of the NSW Department of Local Government categorisation of compatible Local Government Areas (DLG 2012).

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research for *Break and Enter Dwelling* occurrences and rate per 100 000 residents in the three *Group 5* Local Government Areas and NSW for 36 months from January 2011 – December 2013 (BOCSAR 2014) are shown in Table 2.

Year	Jan – Dec 2011		Jan – Dec 2012		Jan – Dec 2013	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Lake Macquarie	978	486.9	1158	576.6	936	466
Maitland	397	564.8	399	567.6	443	630.2
Newcastle	1349	864.6	1374	880.1	1136	727.7
NSW	39529	546.5	40600	561.3	35181	486.4

(Table 2 – Break & Enter Dwelling)

BOCSAR ranks Lake Macquarie sixty second (62) in NSW with regard to this crime category based on 2013 data (BOCSAR 2013). The data also indicates that the rate of this crime category has experienced a minor decrease of 4% over the three reporting years compiled for this report.

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research for *Steal from Dwelling* occurrences and rate per 100 000 residents in the three *Group 5* Local Government Areas and NSW for 36 months from January 2011 – December 2013 (BOCSAR 2014) are shown in Table 3.

Year	Jan – Dec 2011		Jan – Dec 2012		Jan – Dec 2013	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Lake Macquarie	587	292.3	623	310.2	600	298.7
Maitland	320	455.2	232	330	303	431
Newcastle	666	426.6	677	433.7	718	459.9

NSW	20871	288.6	21884	302.6	21596	298.6
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(Table 3 – Steal from Dwelling)

BOCSAR ranks Lake Macquarie seventy third (73) in NSW with regard to this crime category based on 2013 data (BOCSAR 2013). The data also indicates that the rate of this crime category has experienced a minor increase of 2% over the three reporting years compiled for this report.

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research for *Steal from Motor Vehicle* occurrences and rate per 100 000 residents in the three *Group 5* Local Government Areas and NSW for 36 months from January 2011 – December 2013 (BOCSAR 2014) are shown in Table 4.

Year	Jan – Dec 2011		Jan – Dec 2012		Jan – Dec 2013	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Lake Macquarie	1617	805.1	1698	845.4	1381	687.6
Maitland	718	1021.4	601	855	562	799.5
Newcastle	2214	1418.2	1752	1122.3	1731	1108.8
NSW	48234	666.9	47142	651.8	44763	618.9

(Table 4 – Steal from Motor Vehicle)

BOCSAR ranks Lake Macquarie thirty eighth (38) in NSW with regard to this crime category based on 2013 data (BOCSAR 2013). The data also indicates that the rate of this crime category has decreased 15% over the three reporting years compiled for this report but that the rate remains above NSW average.

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research for *Malicious Damage* occurrences and rate per 100 000 residents in the three *Group 5* Local Government Areas and NSW for 36 months from October 2011 – September 2014 (BOCSAR 2015) are shown in Table 5.

Year	Oct 2011 - Sept 2012		Oct 2012 – Sept 2013		Oct 2013 – Sept 2014	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Lake Macquarie	2702	1365	2311	1165	1975	996
Maitland	1118	1569	1055	1468	845	1176
Newcastle	2817	1797	2304	1465	1927	1225
NSW	84079	1155	78874	1080	69113	947

(Table 5 – Steal from Motor Vehicle)

BOCSAR ranks Lake Macquarie seventieth (70) in NSW with regard to this crime category based on 2013 data (BOCSAR 2013). The data also indicates that the rate of this crime category has decreased 27% over the three reporting years compiled for this report but the number of occurrences is the highest for the Hunter regions and that the rate remains above NSW average.

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research for *Assault – Domestic Violence* occurrences and rate per 100 000 residents in the three *Group 5* Local Government Areas and NSW for 36 months from October 2011 – September 2014 (BOCSAR 2015) are shown in Table 6.

Year	Oct 2011 – Sept 2012		Oct 2012 – Sept 2013		Oct 2013 – Sept 2014	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Lake Macquarie	693	380	789	397.8	693	349.4
Maitland	310	434.6	381	530.2	315	494
Newcastle	700	446.3	725	461	702	446.4
NSW	27048	371.6	27963	383	29095	398.5

(Table 6 – Assault Domestic Violence)

BOCSAR ranks Lake Macquarie sixty seventh (67) in NSW with regard to this crime category based on 2015 data (BOCSAR 2015). The data also indicates that the rate of this crime category has remained stable (i.e. 0% rise/fall according to incidents recorded) over the three reporting years compiled for this report.

When comparing Lake Macquarie results for the four identified crime categories with NSW and other similar LGAs the following conclusions can be drawn:

- a) The rate of *Break & Enter Dwelling* is compatible with the NSW rate for the 2013 year (Table 1).
- b) The rate of *Steal from Dwelling* has remained compatible with the NSW rate over the last three years from 2011 – 2013 (Table 2).
- c) The rate of *Steal from Motor Vehicle* is significantly higher (10%) than the NSW rate for the 2013 year (Table 3).
- d) The number of occurrences of *Malicious Damage* in Lake Macquarie has not fallen as quickly as compatible areas and in 2013 – 2014 year is the highest in the Hunter region (Table 5).
- e) The rate of crime activity in Lake Macquarie has remained lower than the rates of compatible Local Government Areas over the three years from 2011 – 2013.

Lake Macquarie City Council has a demonstrable track record for impacting levels of crime occurring in the area in partnership with the Local Area Command and other stakeholders. LMCC Crime Prevention Plan 2009 – 2011 was developed according to departmental guidelines to identify crime categories and a strategic action plan that resulted in a range of crime prevention activities and initiatives in partnership with NSW Police and other key service delivery agencies. This plan identified stolen vehicles as a priority action area and as a result the area has seen a reduction of approximately 35% between 2011 and 2013 due in part to a public education campaign coordinated by LMCC in partnership with National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) and NSW Police to implement Operation Bounce Back over the last three years.

LMCC is able to commit significant staffing resources and expertise across a range of professional disciplines (i.e. community development, CPTED/development assessment, traffic/transport, communications/marketing, event management etc) to ensure crime prevention and intervention outcomes are achieved. Council continues to enjoy positive relationship with government agencies, business and community sectors, and the general public for the advancement of a safer community.

1.2 Selection of Crime Priorities for Lake Macquarie CPS

Consultation with Police from Lake Macquarie Local Area Command resulted in the preparation and supply of crime profile information for the Lake Macquarie LGA based on local Police statistics. This information also identified the crime target priorities for the NSW Police LAC in Lake Macquarie. After analysis of the crime profile information provided to Council, further consultation with local Police were conducted to ensure Council understanding about the information provided and identify the crime categories local Police considered a priority for inclusion in the LMCCPS.

The 2014 – 2018 LMCC Crime Prevention Strategy (Crime Profile) report prepared by NSW Police, Lake Macquarie Local Area Command (Lake Macquarie LAC 2014) identifies the priority crime activities of **Residential Burglary** (AIC 2012 – i.e. *Break & Enter – Dwelling / Steal from Dwelling*) and **Steal from Motor Vehicle** in Lake Macquarie based on an analysis for data for the period from 1 July 2011 to the 30 June 2014.

Police from Lake Macquarie LAC command provided the following information relating to criminal activity, hot spots, priority times and days, crime targets and profiles of victims and offenders as they relate to the crime categories identified as priorities (Tables 5 – 9).

1.2.1 Analysis of Break & Enter Dwelling Offences for Lake Macquarie

Occurrence Suburbs	Occurrence Days	Property Stolen	Victim Profile	Offender Profile
Charlestown Windale Swansea Warners Bay Belmont	Friday Tuesday	Cash/Document (e.g. currency, driver's licence). Personal Item (e.g. wallet). Home Entertainment Equipment (e.g. television).	Unoccupied residential premises throughout the day and both unoccupied and occupied premises during the night, at random.	Drug offenders and property crime offenders.

(Table 5)

Lake Macquarie Local Area Command conducts the following operations / strategies designed to reduce break and enter dwelling offences:

- 'Rapid Response' intelligence based police deployment into high crime areas for 1 hour per day based on statistical data and timeframes.
- LAC operations to target high risk offenders and hotspots through proactive targeting strategies.
- Property Crime Reduction Team to identify investigative opportunities in these offences (e.g. CCTV, Fraud).
- QUAD Command Operations involving Police from adjoining commands.
- Increased focus on pro-activity by Special Operations Group and criminal investigators.
- Increase capturing of forensic material from crime scenes and suspects.
- Timely actioning of forensic identifications.
- Use of consorting legislation.
- Use of social media (facebook) to educate community in terms of crime/victim 'hardening'.

Unique factors that are contributing to break and enter dwelling offending rates in the Lake Macquarie area include:

- Due to motor vehicles becoming increasingly difficult to steal, there has been an increase in the trend of offenders committing a break and enter offence and stealing keys to vehicles in order to steal vehicles.

1.2.2 Analysis of Steal from Dwelling Offences for Lake Macquarie

Occurrence Suburbs	Occurrence Days	Property Stolen	Victim Profile	Offender Profile
Windale Toronto Belmont	Monday Tuesday Saturday Friday	Cash/Document Communications Equipment (e.g. mobile phone).	Victims are targeted at random where premises are unlocked/unsecured.	Opportunistic Crime committed by offenders.

(Table 6)

Lake Macquarie Local Area Command conducts the following operations / strategies designed to reduce steal from dwelling offences:

- 'Rapid Response' intelligence based police deployment into high crime areas for 1 hour per day based on statistical data and timeframes.
- Ongoing education and awareness about this crime via the Crime Prevention Officer to community groups and through Community Engagement at public events.
- Property Crime Reduction Team to identify investigative opportunities in these offences (e.g. CCTV, Fraud).
- QUAD Command Operations involving Police from adjoining commands.
- Increased focus on pro-activity by Special Operations Group and criminal investigators.
- Increase capturing of forensic material from crime scenes and suspects.
- Timely actioning of forensic identifications.
- Use of consorting legislation.
- Use of social media (facebook) to educate community in terms of crime/victim 'hardening'.

Unique factors that are contributing to steal from dwelling offending rates in the Lake Macquarie area include:

- The high offending rate is largely due to victims entrenched behaviour patterns of not locking their dwellings rendering crime targets easier to access.

1.2.3 Analysis of Steal from Motor Vehicle Offences for Lake Macquarie

Occurrence Suburbs	Occurrence Days	Property Stolen	Victim Profile	Offender Profile
Charlestown Cardiff Belmont Warners Bay	All Days Friday	Cash/Document (e.g. currency, drivers' licence). Personal Item (e.g. wallet) Vehicle Plate Tools	Victims leave vehicles unlocked or with valuables on display.	Opportunistic crime committed by offenders.

(Table 7)

Lake Macquarie Local Area Command conducts the following operations / strategies designed to reduce steal from motor vehicle offences:

- 'Rapid Response' intelligence based police deployment into high crime areas for 1 hour per day based on statistical data and timeframes.
- Lake Macquarie Police were involved with the Attorney General and Justice' Anti-theft number plate screw fittings. This project officially concluded in June 2014.
- Property Crime Reduction Team to identify investigative opportunities in these offences (e.g. CCTV, Fraud).
- QUAD Command Operations involving Police from adjoining commands.
- Increased focus on pro-activity by Special Operations Group and criminal investigators.
- Increase capturing of forensic material from crime scenes and suspects.
- Timely actioning of forensic identifications.
- Use of consorting legislation.
- Use of social media (facebook) to educate community in terms of crime/victim 'hardening'.

Unique factors that are contributing to steal from motor vehicle offending rates in the Lake Macquarie area include:

- The high offending rate is largely due to victims not locking their vehicle while parked in residential driveways and streets. In addition to vehicles being unlocked, victims also leave valuable items in their vehicles such as cash, handbags, wallets, phones, GPS units and hand tools.
- The area has experienced spikes in the trend of offenders smashing vehicle windows in order to steal valuables contained within that are observable.
- The area also commonly experiences number plate theft in order for offenders to commit secondary crimes usually relating to property crime.
- Credit/Debit cards stolen from vehicles are often used in secondary crimes for fraud offences.

1.2.4 Analysis of Malicious Damage Offences for Lake Macquarie

Occurrence Suburbs	Occurrence Days	Premises Type
General		
Windale Belmont Charlestown	Friday Saturday	Residential (e.g. house detached). Outdoor/Public Place (e.g. road/street).
Graffiti		
Belmont Mount Hutton Charlestown	Friday	Business/Commercial (e.g. shopping complex [i.e. Lake Macquarie Fair]). Residential (e.g. yard/fencing).

(Table 8)

The most common location for general category of malicious damage to occur is residential premises and outdoor public places, where malicious damage in the form of graffiti is most likely to occur on business / commercial and residential premises (BOCSAR 2014). In the Lake Macquarie area, this crime is most likely to occur on either a Friday or Saturday in the following suburbs – Windale, Belmont, Charlestown and Mount Hutton.

1.2.5 Analysis of Assault – Domestic Violence Offences for Lake Macquarie

Occurrence Suburbs*	Occurrence Days	Premise Type
Windale Toronto Belmont Cardiff	Friday Saturday Sunday	Residential (93%) - (BOCSAR 2015b)

(Table 9)

The most common times for incidents of domestic violence to occur is between Friday afternoon through to Sunday evening. A large majority of incidents take place at residential premises followed by the street fronts and roadways (BOCSAR 2015b). The highest occurrence rates for the year January – December 2014 occurred in the four suburbs listed above in Table 9. It is notable that incidents of domestic violence occur across all Lake Macquarie suburbs (BOCSAR 2015b).

After the analysis of statistical information and consultation with Lake Macquarie LAC crime prevention specialists and with the approval of Superintendent Brett Greentree, Lake Macquarie Local Area Command, it is concluded that the LMCPS should target the crime categories **Residential Burglary** and **Steal from Motor Vehicle**. Additionally, the crime categories of **Malicious Damage** and **Assault – Domestic Violence** have been included in LMCPS due to the high number of occurrences in Lake Macquarie and Council's continuing commitment to working towards a reduction in the number of these offenses being committed.

1.3 Situational analysis

Lake Macquarie is the fourth largest Local Government Area (LGA) in New South Wales by population numbering approximately 200 796 on 30 June 2013 (ABS 2014a). NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure estimates that the population of Lake Macquarie will grow to 202 300 by year 2016, and 219 600 by year 2031 by (NSW Government 2013). The city is located on the east coast of NSW, situated 160 km north of Sydney. The LGA is approximately 750 square kilometres of which 110 square kilometres is Lake Macquarie. The eastern side of the lake consists of more densely populated established urban centres, whereas the western side is comprised of dispersed communities, some of which are in semi-rural and isolated settings. The northern area of the LGA is a mix of older established more densely populated suburbs, new development areas and small townships.

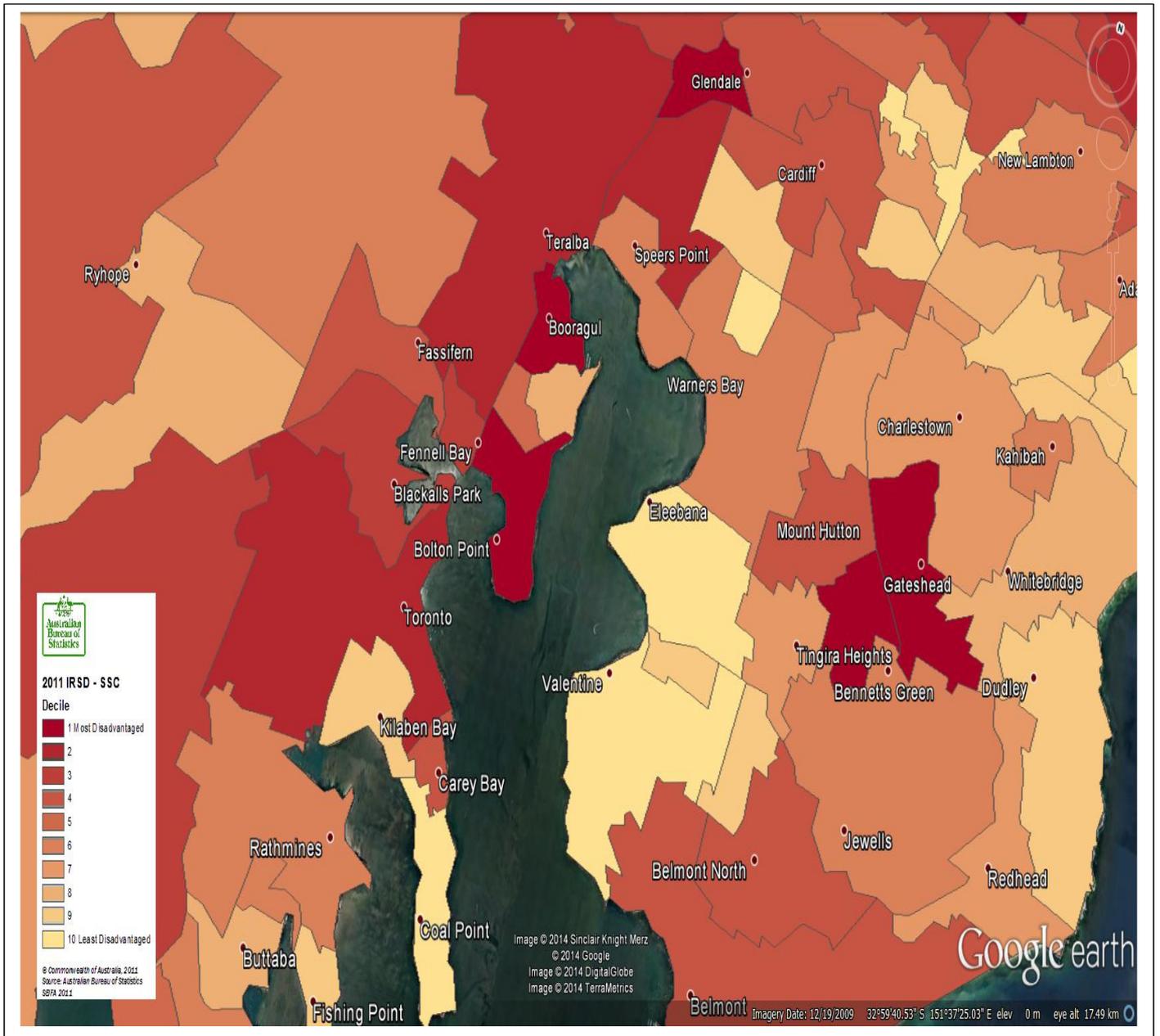
The Lake Macquarie area presents a range of circumstances which influence the environment in which crime prevention strategies are employed. These can be summarised as:

1.3.1 Lake Macquarie LGA sustains a significantly large population of residents from a low socio-economic status (Table 9). Residents qualifying under to the three highest deciles for socio-economic disadvantage number 43 768 (or 22% of total population - ABS 2014b). Research indicates that poverty, disadvantage, low educational achievement, and economic and social stress that may increase the likelihood of an individual being involved in crime (AIC 2012). A significant number of the suburbs in Lake Macquarie are identified as being highly socio-economically disadvantaged are also identified by local Police as crime hotspots (Table 5 – 8). A significant proportion of Police resources are utilised in the policing of these areas.

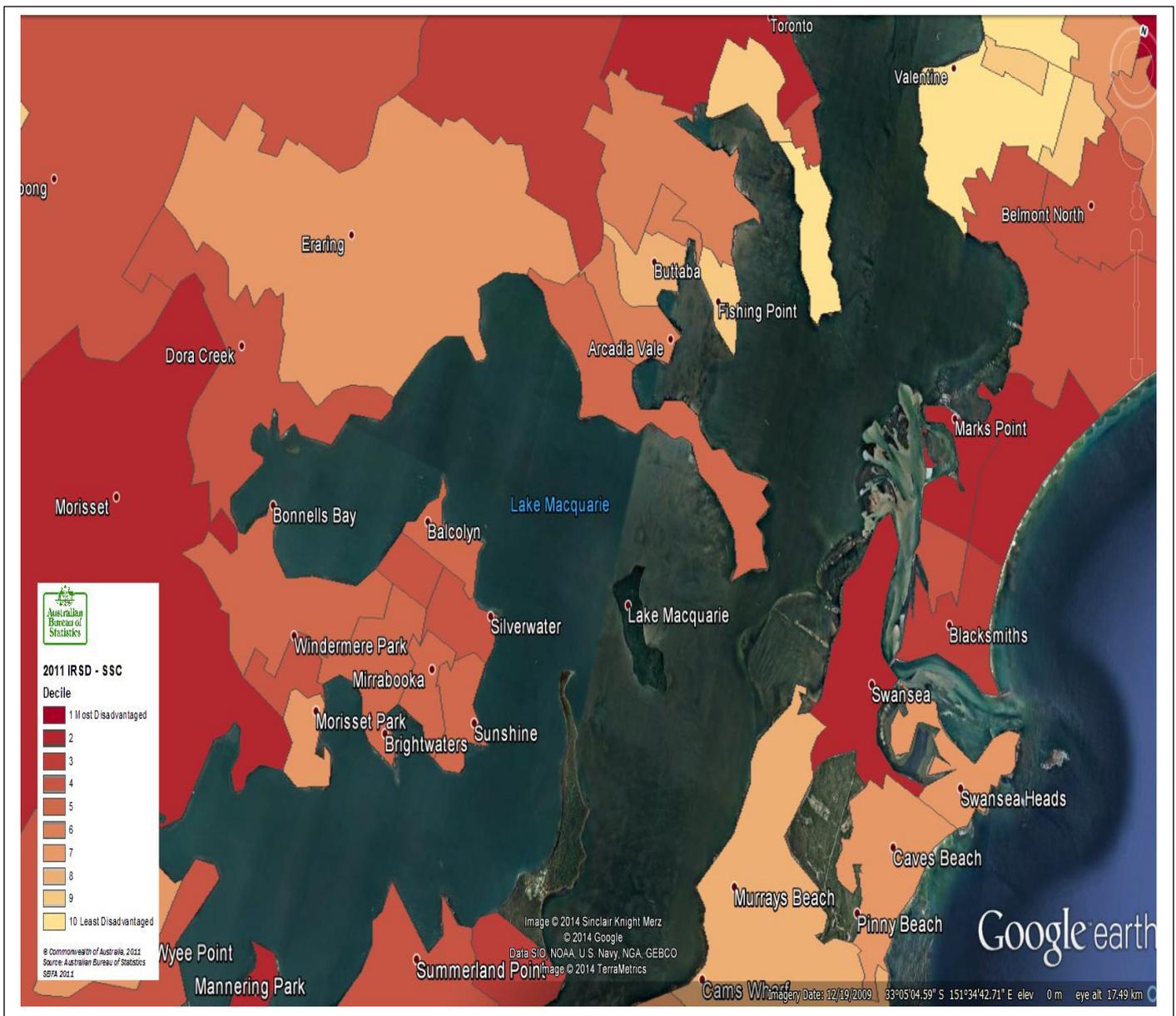
Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by Suburb (SEIFA 2011)	Population (Census 2011)	Percentage of population	Number of Suburbs represented in category
Decile 1 (most disadvantaged)	10 373	6%	5
Decile 2	19 348	10%	7
Decile 3	12 677	7%	5
Decile 1 – 3	43 768	23%	17
Deciles 1 – 10	189 006	100%	113

(Table 9 – SEIFA Analysis of Lake Macquarie Population)

1.3.2 The size and spread of the population due to Lake Macquarie continues to be an influential factor in NSW Police ability to respond strategically to crime across the area. Policing resources are often stretched and spend much of their time and energy on responding to incidents of crime in hotspot locations which closely correlate to suburbs identified as having a high SEIFA rating (Map 1 & 2). In this respect, the ability of local Police to adopt preventative methods is more challenging when compared with other areas where the physical size of the LAC does not present coverage issues (e.g. Comparative Group 5 LGAs in Hunter region [DLG 2012]).



Map 1 Northern Lake Macquarie / SEIFA Mapping of Suburbs



Map 2 Southern Lake Macquarie / SEIFA Mapping of Suburbs

1.3.3 The dispersed nature of the population of Lake Macquarie means that instead of having one main central business and entertainment district, the community operates through a number of town centres (i.e. Swansea, Belmont, Charlestown, Cardiff, Glendale, Toronto and Morisset). This presents a range of issues relating to the implementation of area wide crime prevention strategies targeting issues associated with business and entertainment districts (e.g. motor vehicle and property, alcohol related and licencing, public behaviour and malicious damage offences). Specifically, the ability of policing and other community crime prevention initiatives to have a stable and ongoing presence in all key locations.

1.3.4 The large bush areas and spread of the population particularly on the western and south western side of the Lake Macquarie creates a sense of isolation in a number of locations. Where this isolation is coupled with higher than average levels of socio-economic disadvantage the nature of crime is difficult to address, in part because Police and other agencies are often viewed as outsiders. As crime prevention often relies on participation and cooperation of communities to provide surveillance and report crime, the isolated nature of these communities tends to present barriers to implementation of good practice programming (e.g. mistrust of outsiders, silence about local issues etc). The isolated nature of these communities is exacerbated but a lack of public transport and the need for people to use other forms of affordable transport (e.g. bicycles, walking). The occurrence of opportunistic crime can be connected to lack of available, affordable public transport options.

1.3.5 Other situational crime considerations

As identified in the literature (AIC 2012) there are a range of situational and social risk factors associated with residential burglary which contribute to its occurrence and warrant consideration in the development of prevention planning:

- * presence of suitable cover for offenders on and around dwelling (e.g. overgrown trees and shrubs)
- * unsecured entry points (e.g. unlocked gates and windows)
- * proximity to pawnshops for the quick disposal of stolen goods
- * proximity to public transport which enables access and quick exit from target locations
- * dwellings that are unoccupied / unattended for long periods of time on regular basis (i.e. 6am-6pm from Monday to Friday).

1.4 Stakeholders

The prevention of crime is not just a NSW Police concern, rather it is an issue for the community as a whole. It is acknowledged by Lake Macquarie City Council that preventing crime across a local government area, particularly one as large and diverse as Lake Macquarie requires partnership and collaboration between a range of community stakeholders and local Police. This strategy seeks to identify and articulate the role of community stakeholders whose participation is vital in the work of preventing and addressing crime.

The rationalisation of a number of crime prevention committees in Lake Macquarie has been undertaken (i.e. NSW Premier's Department Crime Prevention Partnership, Lake Macquarie Community Safety Committee) to increase efficiency and collaboration. The main forum for issues of crime prevention to be raised and discussed by stakeholders in Lake Macquarie is the Community Safety Precinct Committee (CSPC). The CSPC is a Police chaired committee and includes representation from government departments, local residents and business chambers. This committee has the capacity to report about localised crime events and presents an opportunity to negotiate minor actions to address them. The CSPC also serves as a crime communication network for personal safety issues raised by members of the community, providing opportunity for Police and government agencies to evaluate programs and develop partnerships to address safety concerns.

NSW Police, Council and community continue to work in partnership to address situational crime and anti-social behaviour as it arises across the city. An example of this approach to crime prevention is the ongoing partnership between Police, Council, GPT Group / Shopping Centre, the community services sector (i.e. Eastlakes Youth Centre and Charlestown Community Centre – The Place) and young people (i.e. Lake Macquarie Youth Advisory Council, young people attending youth centre) regarding criminal and anti-social behaviour in the Charlestown shopping district. This type of collaborative approach to resolving situation crime is a model that Council hopes to replicated across the city through the development of this crime prevention strategy.

1.5 Community Engagement

In 2012, Lake Macquarie City Council adopted *Our Shared Vision – Community Strategic Plan 2013-2023* on behalf of the community of Lake Macquarie (LMCC 2012). As noted, this plan outlines the main priorities of the community and sets out the long-term strategies developed to respond to these priorities. The community of Lake Macquarie through the CSP have indicated the importance they give to crime prevention and a safer community. The consultation undertaken with the community in the writing of this strategy has been conducted to ensure that community members have a genuine opportunity to provide input about their perceptions of crime in the area, the categories being targeted by the strategy and the actions to be undertaken to address crime in Lake Macquarie.

Community consultation for the development of this strategy included:

- a) Liaising with NSW Police, Lake Macquarie Local Area Command about crime priorities in the area and the development of effective action plans to reduce crime activity (see Section 1.1 – Crime Profile).
- b) Community Safety Survey providing community members with the opportunity to have input into the plans developed to address crime risk in the area (the findings of this survey follow this introduction).
- c) Exhibition of the draft Crime Prevention Strategy prior to adoption by Council, providing a further opportunity for community stakeholders to write submissions regarding the content of the strategy.

1.5.1 Lake Macquarie Community Safety Survey

The Lake Macquarie Community Safety Survey (LMCSS) was commenced on 17 November 2014 and closed on 12 December 2014. At the close of business on Friday 12 December 2014 the online questionnaire was completed by 305 respondents. A detailed breakdown of the findings from the survey are reported in Appendix 1-3 of this report.

The objective in conducting the survey was to provide opportunity for the community to participate in the development of the Lake Macquarie Crime Prevention Strategy 2015 – 2018 by providing their views about crime in the area and prioritising crime prevention activities.

The questionnaire was designed to collect information from residents and business operators in relation to their experience of crime (BOCSAR 2014) and their views about current good practise in approaches to crime prevention (AIC 2012).

1.5.1.1 Conclusions drawn from survey results

The following conclusions about the community's perceptions about safety and crime can be made based on results of the community safety survey:

- A significant majority believe that Lake Macquarie is a safe area to live and work. This perception has been eroded slightly over the past two to three years with 20% of respondents feeling less safe.
- The community is most fearful of having their personal belongings or money stolen from their person or their motor vehicle. Despite the statistical evidence that residential burglary is the crime category requiring priority attention, it was the crime that the community are least fearful about it happening to them. The community's reluctance to recognise the need to target residential burglary (as identified in this strategy), confirms that the community will benefit from an education campaign about the prevalence of the crime and the uptake of preventative actions.
- The community indicates that good maintenance and up-keep of public facilities (e.g. pathways, parks, toilets, halls / structures, parking areas) are the most effective crime prevention activity that can be undertaken by local government. The community also indicated that adequate lighting of public car parking areas and shared pathways is an important strategy to prevent crime.

- Property marking programs (e.g. engraving of personal and household items) are viewed by the community as the most effective way to reduce / prevent residential burglary. Support to victims of residential burglary to prevent likelihood of re-victimisation and awareness campaigns in high risk locations are also considered effective strategies.
- The community identified that signage in public car parks, installation of boom gates and awareness raising campaigns as the most effective measures to prevent theft from motor vehicles. Improved lighting and installation of CCTV were viewed as the least effective measures to prevent theft from motor vehicles.

The conclusions reached from the community safety survey have been used to assist with the prioritisation of actions identified in the crime prevention actions plans (Section 3).

2. Actions and Implementation

This section gives a brief overview of activities, projects and actions that will be implemented through the Actions Plans indicated in section 3 of this Strategy.

2.1 Residential Burglary

Target Offence:	Residential burglary is defined as the illegal and unlawful entry into a dwelling for the purpose of committing a felony (AIC 2012, p55). As identified in the literature break and enter—dwelling <i>and</i> stealing from dwelling offences are similar in nature and categorisation. Given the similarity of these crimes and for the purpose of this strategy, the terminology adopted by the literature, <i>residential burglary</i> will be used to refer to both break and enter—dwelling and stealing from dwelling offences (AIC 2012).
Project:	<p>A range of measures will be implemented to increase the difficulty for offenders to commit residential burglary and decrease the break and enter – dwelling and steal from dwelling offences. These measures include increase emphasis on access control measures for all new developments by consent authorities; awareness raising across community targeting high-risk neighbourhoods and households; and property marking (e.g. engraving) and information recording programs in high-risk neighbourhoods and communities.</p> <p>Evidence-based intervention to prevent residential burglary as identified by Australian Institute of Criminology include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - access control measures to result in improved security and target hardening - individual, neighbourhood and community awareness raising campaigns targeting the reduction of risk factors - program providing assistance to residents to aid in property marking - natural surveillance improvement program (i.e. awareness raising and education) - CPTED review of hotspot locations and implementation of recommendations through partnership (AIC 2012).
Rationale:	<p>Over last three years (2011-2013) of reporting, BOCSAR data demonstrates a 2% increase in 'steal from dwelling' offences for the Lake Macquarie area. This equates to an increase in 2011 of 587 to 600 in 2013 which although is a minimal increase it is a crime category which has experienced an increase therefore warrants increased focus.</p> <p>The occurrence of this crime activity is frequently attributed to its opportunistic nature, as households are an attractive target for offenders due to the large number of highly valuable and portable goods and that a large number of dwellings are left unattended during day time hours. Houses in particular have many accessible entry points such as doors and windows (Grabosky 1995 in AIC 2012).</p> <p>Information provided by Lake Macquarie LAC identifies a distinct link between steal from dwelling / break and entry into residential homes with vehicle theft, stealing from motor vehicles and fraud offences. Local police report that targeting steal from dwelling / break and enters (Residential Burglary) will impact on the occurrence of other crime activity.</p>
Objective:	The strategies outlined in the action plan are designed to halt the increase in residential burglary offences and further reduce related crime activity (i.e. steal from motor vehicle, motor vehicle theft and fraud). The objective of this strategy is to see a 5% reduction in this crime activity across the implementation timeframe. As residential burglary occurs across both week days and weekends as reported

	by Police statistics for Lake Macquarie and is often opportunistic in nature (AIC 2012), strategies adopted anticipate that a reduction in this crime activity are best calculated over a total period rather than a specific time and day.
Lead Agency & Partners:	Lake Macquarie City Council; NSW Police Force – Lake Macquarie Local Area Command; community organisations, residents and neighbourhood / community groups.
Expected Outcome:	<p>It is anticipated that a reduction in residential burglary of the nature described in this strategy will reduce the financial resources being used to replace / repair stolen and damaged personal property and as a result increase the economic prosperity of residents. The effectiveness of the strategy may also have a positive impact of a reduction in insurance premiums due a reduction in claims for replacement of personal items and repair of damage to property.</p> <p>Importantly, it is also anticipated that there will be reduction in the fear of crime or an increase in the sense of community safety as residents are empowered to strengthen personal residential security in addition to the implementation of a range of evidence-based crime prevention initiatives as documented in this action plan.</p>
Performance Measures:	<p>Reduce the opportunities for theft from residential buildings contributing to a 5% reduction in this crime category over implementation period.</p> <p>Increase the ability of Police to identify property stolen from residential buildings contributing to a 5% reduction in this crime category over implementation period.</p>

2.2 Steal from Motor Vehicle

Target Offence:	Steal from motor vehicle is an offence that includes theft of items left in cars, theft of interior car parts and theft of external car parts (AIC 2012).
Project:	<p>A range of measures will be implemented to increase the difficulty for offenders to commit steal from motor vehicle offences and reduce the occurrence of this offence. The range of measures employed will targeting cars parked in public parking facilities and residential settings (i.e. at home), both which are identified as the primary risk locations (AIC 2012). Measures include improving security of parking facilities; improve crime prevention signage; improved lighting and maximising luminosity of painted surfaces; CPTED review of development proposals; and awareness raising campaign to reduce risk at target locations.</p> <p>Local police experience leads them to conclude that due to motor vehicle manufactures designing vehicles with improved anti-theft devices, many offenders now commit residential burglary offences to steal car keys to gain access to vehicles. Once access to vehicles is achieved, theft from vehicles includes personal items, identity theft, number plate thefts and siphoning of fuel. There is local evidence that theft from motor vehicles leads to other crimes including frauds at service stations where people fill their tanks with fuel and leave without paying for it. It has also resulted in use of stolen identity items from vehicles (i.e. credit cards, drivers licence) at service station/super markets including use of Paywave to purchase items. Police are of the view that targeting theft from motor vehicles will result in a reduction in related crime activity.</p>
Rationale:	<p>The rate of <i>Steal from Motor Vehicle</i> in Lake Macquarie is higher (10%) than the NSW rate for the 2013 year despite a 15% decrease in this crime category over the three year period from 2011 to 2013. Reporting shows that there were 1381 occurrences in the 2013 reporting year (BOCSAR 2014). BOCSAR ranks Lake Macquarie thirty eighth (38) in the State with regard to this crime category. The most common location for stealing from motor vehicle is residential premises followed by public places (BOCSAR 2012 in AIC 2012).</p> <p>In 2010, there were 48 159 recorded incidents of theft from motor vehicles in NSW but this figure is likely to be less than half the number of actual incidents due to reluctance of the public to report this category of theft to police (AIC 2012). This raises the importance of the need to raise the profile of this crime activity as part of public awareness campaign as part of a suite of strategies targeting these offences. The importance of targeting this crime activity is reinforced by advice received from local Police that indicates a reduction in this offence will have flow on in reducing other crime activity (i.e. fraud offences resulting from stolen identity documents).</p> <p>Strategies adopted as part of this action plan are designed to target the two high risk situations (i.e. parking in public parking facilities and residential settings). As indicated by evidence (AIC 2012) it is preferable that vehicles can be parked in garages and where this is not possible that they should be parked in the immediate vicinity of the property in a situation that provide maximum natural surveillance opportunity. Residents of Lake Macquarie will be targeted with an education campaign to raise their awareness with the aim of reducing this offence in residential settings.</p> <p>In addition, where vehicles are left unattended in public places, there is evidence that theft from car offences can be prevented by car owners adopting precautions such as ensuring vehicles are locked; parking vehicles they are most easily seen;</p>

	not leaving valuable or personal items in cars; and where possessions are left in the car, hiding them from sight (Geason and Wilson 1990 in AIC 2012). The strategies adopted by the action plan will seek to increase the difficulty for this offence to be committed in public parking facilities.
Objective:	<p>The measures adopted in this action plan are based on evidence about increasing the difficulty for offenders to commit steal from motor vehicle offences and to reduce the occurrence of this offence by 5% across the period of implementation.</p> <p>Evidence-based interventions to prevention steal from motor vehicle include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving security of parking facilities including presence of parking attendants during peak risk periods • improved lighting in and around car parks including maximising luminosity by painting surfaces • awareness raising campaign including signage re improved security and strategies to reduce risk • designing space to increase natural surveillance and reduce / remove obstructions (AIC 2012).
Lead Agency & Partners:	Lake Macquarie City Council; NSW Police Force – Lake Macquarie LAC; Shopping Centre Management; Town Centre – Chamber of Commerce; Developers and business owners; community members, neighbourhood groups and residents.
Expected Outcome:	<p>Adopting the measures outlined in this strategy is aimed at reducing the occurrence of stealing from motor vehicles by approximately 5%. It is also anticipated that targeting this crime activity will impact on the occurrence of related offences (i.e. fraud and other stealing offences).</p> <p>It is anticipated that a reduction in steal from motor vehicle and related offences will reduce the financial resources being used to replace stolen personal items and/or repair damaged to vehicles resulting from this crime activity. The strategy may also have a positive impact of a reduction in insurance premiums due a reduction in claims for replacement of personal items and repair of damage to vehicles. It is anticipated that there will be a reduction in associate offences (i.e. fraud) which have demonstrated a direct relationship with this crime activity.</p> <p>As previous acknowledged, it is anticipated that there will be reduction in the fear of crime or an increase in the sense of community safety as vehicle owners are empowered to strengthen security practices associated with vehicle use in addition to other evidence-based crime prevention initiatives as documented in this action plan.</p>
Performance Measures:	<p>Reduce the opportunities for theft from motor vehicles in public car parking facilities contributing to a 5% reduction in this crime category over implementation period.</p> <p>Reduce the opportunities for theft from motor vehicles in residential settings contributing to a 5% reduction in this crime category over implementation period.</p> <p>Increase community awareness for the prevention of steal from motor vehicle offences contributing to a 5% reduction in this crime category over implementation period.</p>

2.3 Malicious Damage

LMCC has instituted a range of effective mechanisms to combat previously high levels of malicious damage as indicated in the 2009 – 2011 Crime Prevention Plan. The effective strategies implemented have resulted in a significant reduction in this crime activity in the area. As such, it would be negligent of LMCC not to sustain effective programs undertaken for the prevention and timely response to repair vandalism and other forms of malicious damage (e.g. graffiti). In addition, the inclusion of malicious damage addresses community concerns about crime prevention and the priority they indicate for the good up-keep of public facilities (Section 1.5). In addition, feedback from the business sector (i.e. Business Chambers) and that obtained from community members as part of attendance at Police convened Community Safety Precinct Committee meetings indicates the need for the inclusion of malicious damage.

It is important to acknowledge that the crime category of malicious damage has not been recommended as a priority area for action by NSW Police for inclusion in the Crime Prevention Strategy.

Target Offence:	Malicious damage is broadly defined as the intentional 'destruction or defacement of public, commercial and private property' (Howard 2006 in AIC 2012). For the purposes of this strategy malicious damage will include both <i>general</i> and <i>graffiti</i> categories as reported by NSW Police (LMLAC 2014).
Project:	A range of measures will continue to be implemented by Council to prevent where possible, and respond in a timely manner to the crime of malicious damage. These measures include but are not limited to resourcing the timely removal of graffiti and repair of damage on public property; increasing capacity of the community for the timely removal of graffiti; raising community awareness about reporting incidents of graffiti.
Rationale:	<p>The rate of <i>Malicious Damage</i> in Lake Macquarie remains slightly higher (3%) than the NSW rate for the 2013 year despite a decrease of 27% in this crime category over the three year period from 2011 to 2013. Reporting shows that there were 2184 occurrences in the 2013 reporting year (BOCSAR 2014). BOCSAR ranks Lake Macquarie seventieth (70) in the State with regard to this crime category.</p> <p>Malicious damage is the most commonly reported criminal offence in NSW. Approximately 87 000 incidents were reported to NSW Police in 2011 of which 8% were graffiti related, this offence continues to have a substantial impact on communities (AIC 2012). Determining the true cost and frequency of malicious damage is difficult due to under-reporting and the absence of a centralised body to coordinate reporting and information. Apart from the considerable monetary costs, graffiti and vandalism can undermine a community's feeling of safety, reducing the quality of life of residents and possibly leading to further criminal activity where left unchecked (LaGrange 1999 in AIC 2012).</p> <p>Research shows that the majority of malicious damage incidents occur between 3pm and midnight with a peak between 6pm and 9pm from Friday through to Sunday. Other important characteristics reported include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alcohol being an important contributing factor • regional areas experience higher rates • vandals primary targets are residential property, private cars and commercial premises • graffiti damage is most often caused to residential properties and educational facilities • young people are generally the main perpetrators (AIC 2012). <p>Rapid removal of graffiti shares characteristics with CPTED as they both involve</p>

	improving the general amenity of an area with the aim of increasing community feelings of safety and pedestrian movement through the area, thereby providing more opportunities for natural surveillance. Rapid removal also has the benefit of reducing the rewards offenders associate with the commission of a graffiti offence (AIC 2012).
Objective:	<p>The measures adopted in this action plan are based on evidence about increasing the difficulty for offenders to commit malicious damage offences and timely response to repair damage when it occurs with the aim of reducing the occurrence of this offence by 5% across the period of implementation.</p> <p>Research indicates that as the majority of malicious damage is opportunistic in nature that improved design and planning (e.g. application of CPTED principles) is likely to reduce the prevalence of this crime activity (AIC 2012). This includes the use of the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of polycarbonate laminates instead of glass • selection of injection moulded seating over other materials • application of anti-graffiti paint on vulnerable surfaces (AIC 2012). <p>Literature about effective strategies available to local government to address malicious damage activity include measures relating to the application of CPTED principles to design of structures and places; rapid removal of graffiti; community education and awareness raising; and improving lighting of public places (AIC 2012).</p>
Lead Agency & Partners:	Lake Macquarie City Council; Department of Justice NSW - Juvenile Justice & Corrective Services; Shopping Centre Management; Town Centre – Business Chambers; Developers; Business Owners; Community Organisations / Youth Services; Residents and Neighbourhood Groups.
Expected Outcome:	<p>Adopting the measures outlined in this strategy is aimed at reducing the occurrence of malicious damage by approximately 5% over the period of implementation.</p> <p>Continued compliance in design of developments with CPTED good practice.</p> <p>Improvement in response time for the removal of graffiti from public utilities, commercial premises and private property.</p> <p>Increased reporting of graffiti damage by community to NSW Graffiti Hotline.</p>
Performance Measures:	<p>The inclusion of clauses in local DCP requiring new developments to improve resistance to malicious damage.</p> <p>Ongoing advice to Council's development compliance team to monitor the uptake of damage resistant designs, materials and management plans for damage restoration.</p> <p>Timely response to the removal of graffiti and repair of vandalism on public property that Council is responsible to maintain.</p> <p>Improve response times for repair of damage on public utilities, commercial and residential premises.</p> <p>Increased in community reporting incidents graffiti to the Graffiti Hotline.</p>

2.4 Assault – Domestic Violence

LMCC has continued to work in partnership with a range of organisations to implement measures to reduce the incidence of domestic violence while encouraging increased reporting to the Police as indicated in the 2009 – 2011 Crime Prevention Plan. Given the high profile of this category of offence, it has been retained as part of the current crime prevention strategy.

It is important to acknowledge that the crime category of assault – domestic violence has not been recommended as a priority area for action by NSW Police for inclusion in the Crime Prevention Strategy.

Target Offence:	Assault - Domestic Violence (DV)
Project:	To build and strengthen support networks, and provide community education regarding domestic violence, the community's responsibilities towards domestic violence, and increase reporting to police.
Rationale:	<p>Domestic Violence is a crime with social and well-being implications that requires ongoing community support to address this serious issue. The community needs to understand the varied forms of domestic violence and the role they can play in challenging violent behaviour. Support and education are also required for victims to equip them with tools and knowledge to break the domestic violence cycle.</p> <p>There are many forms of domestic violence, physical, emotional, social, non-physical control and even financial control (AD&FVC 2009). Domestic violence is not contained to heterosexual relationships and often is evident in all social classes, backgrounds and geographical areas. While there is a small portion of men who experience domestic violence, the majority of people who experience violence in the home from intimate partners, are women. 1 in 3 Australian women have experienced domestic violence, while 1 in 5 women have experienced sexual violence (CoAG 2010).</p> <p>Traditionally, there have been significant barriers to victims reporting sexual assault, domestic and family violence. This situation has arisen because of beliefs and attitudes which continue to result in a general under reporting of domestic violence across the community. These beliefs and attitude include a perception that it is too minor to report to police, a lack of awareness that such action constitutes an offence, a desire to 'keep it private' and deal with it themselves, shame, fear of the perpetrator, and a sense of ongoing responsibility for the safety of other family members (Mouzos & Makkai 2004).</p> <p>The associated effects that accompany domestic violence situations influence children in a variety of ways. Children may suffer a variety of long and short-term negative traumatic effects after witnessing situations of domestic violence on the abused person. One study analyzed 36 separate studies that all looked at the risk of abuse of children where the mother reported being abused by the father. These studies revealed that 30-60 percent of those children whose mothers had been abused were themselves likely to be abused (Wolfer 2009). Domestic violence also costs the Australian economy an estimated \$13 billion a year due to loss time at work, the mental health repercussions it warrants, and support services needed to help families.</p> <p>While alcohol use or abuse is not a primary cause of violence against women and their children, there is evidence that it may influence the severity of the violence inflicted and injuries sustained (Leonard 2001).</p>

	<p>As Domestic Violence is a community problem, it requires a community wide approach. The National Plan (CoAG 2010) identifies that leaders and local government play a vital role in encouraging, promoting and supporting people in the community to take an active stance against violence against women. Awareness campaigns, as well as education to the general public about their responsibility to challenge discrimination, and discourage violent behaviour toward women are seen as critical to end violence against women.</p>
Objective:	<p>To educate the community about domestic violence in all forms and strengthen the existing committees by reducing or removing barriers.</p> <p>Lake Macquarie Council's Children and Families Community Planner attend and provides support to the Lake Macquarie based domestic violence committees. The two committees are located in Belmont and Toronto and meet on a monthly basis. The purpose of these committees is to raise awareness by educating the community about the seriousness of this criminal offence and its associated effects on community and, to encourage and support increased reporting by victims.</p>
Lead Agency & Partners:	<p>Lake Macquarie City Council, Lake Macquarie Domestic Violence Committees, NSW Police Domestic Violence Liaison Officers, Hunter Domestic Violence Court assistance scheme, Nova for Women and Children, women's refuges and family support services.</p>
Expected Outcome:	<p>Continuance of partnerships and communication processes to strengthen the work of the domestic violence committees, and encourage increased reporting of domestic violence.</p> <p>Delivery of community education and awareness raising campaigns to reduce the overall incidence of domestic violence in the Lake Macquarie community.</p>
Performance Measures:	<p>Continuing high level of reporting of incidents of domestic violence by community members.</p> <p>Agencies conduct area-wide awareness and education campaigns</p>

3. Crime Prevention Strategy Action Plan

3.1 Residential Burglary

Action	Performance	Time frames	Funding required	Milestones
3.1.1 Reduce the opportunities for theft from residential buildings by: Uptake of measures to improve the control of access to residential buildings – increase the installation of improved security measures on behalf of residents.	3.1.1a Develop and make available a resource that promotes the installation security devices and perimeter security for all new residential developments.	July 2015 – June 2018	Nil	Review progress in June 2016
	3.1.1b Ensure all developments referred for crime risk assessment include recommendation for installation of appropriate security measures.	July 2015 – June 2018	Nil	Review progress in June 2016
3.1.2 Reduce the opportunities for theft from residential buildings by: Implement universal awareness raising campaign targeted at potential victims of residential burglary – increase understanding of risk factors for victimisation, offending hotspots and prevention measures*.	3.1.2 Develop material to conduct education campaign for property owners / residents to increase employment of CPTED principles in design and maintenance of residential properties.	July 2015 – June 2018	\$5000 (subject to securing grant funds)	Review progress in June 2016
3.1.3 Increase the ability of Police to identify property stolen from residential buildings by: Conduct a property marking (e.g. engraving) and information recording program (e.g. recording serial numbers) – assistance provided to residents to record identifying information on valuable personal items.	3.1.3a Conduct property marking program across LGA targeting high-risk neighbourhoods / locations.	July 2016	\$3000 (subject to securing grant funds)	Completed by 30 June 2016
	3.1.3b Implement universal awareness raising campaign for residents to record identifying information of personal goods.	July 2015 – June 2018	\$2000 (LMCC budget allocation)	Review progress in June 2016

* Literature identifies a range of practical strategies that are useful in the prevention of residential burglary such as: increasing the natural surveillance opportunity; removing / securing implements that may be used to gain entry to a dwelling; making the dwelling appear occupied, particularly during long periods of absence (e.g. arrangements for collection of mail, putting out bins etc); improving the security of the access points to a dwelling; installation of alarm systems and sensor lighting; and support for victims to re-secure their dwelling to prevent re-victimisation (AIC 2012).

3.2 Steal from Motor Vehicle

Action	Performance	Time frames	Funding required	Milestones
<p>3.2.1 Reduce the opportunities for theft from motor vehicles in public car parking facilities by:</p> <p>Partnering with business and developers for the uptake of measures to improve perimeter security and surveillance of public parking facilities (i.e. increased utilisation of measures such as installation of metal fencing, lockable gates / secure doors, employment parking attendants during high risk periods).</p>	<p>3.2.1 At least three car parking facilities receive grant for improvements.</p>	<p>July 2016 – June 2017</p>	<p>\$15,000 (subject to securing grant funds)</p>	<p>Allocation of \$15,000 in year two of strategy.</p>
<p>3.2.2 Reduce the opportunities for theft from motor vehicles in residential settings and public car parking facilities by:</p> <p>Utilisation of CPTED principles in design of new residential housing developments and public car parking facilities (e.g. CPTED review of development applications to ensure compliance, requiring the installation of lighting to Australian Standards for car parking facilities).</p>	<p>3.2.2 CPTED review and monitoring of development proposals as required by LMCC DCP guidelines. This includes ensuring that all new public car parking facilities install lighting to Australian Standards.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>Review progress in June 2016</p>
<p>3.2.3 Increase community awareness for the prevention of steal from motor vehicle offences:</p> <p>Deliver awareness raising campaigns targeting motor vehicle security prevention of theft from motor vehicles (i.e. improved signage in public car parking facilities).</p>	<p>3.2.3 Employment of signage informing users about security measures employed.</p>	<p>July 2017 – June 2018</p>	<p>\$10,000 (subject to securing grant funds)</p>	<p>Allocation of \$10,000 in year three of the strategy.</p>
<p>3.2.4 Increase community awareness for the prevention of steal from motor vehicle offences:</p> <p>Deliver awareness raising campaigns targeting motor vehicle security prevention of theft from motor vehicles (i.e. community awareness raising programs).</p>	<p>3.2.4 Deliver Operation Bounce Back Program in partnership with National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council & NSW Police.</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>\$30,000 (subject to securing annual grant from NMVTRC)</p>	<p>When offered, secure annual grant of \$10,000 from National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council for program.</p>

3.3 Malicious Damage

Action	Performance	Time frames	Funding required	Milestones
<p>3.3.1 Reduce the likelihood of malicious damage occurring by:</p> <p>Recommendation for the inclusion of clauses in local development control plan requiring increased use of designs and materials that are damage resistant.</p>	<p>3.3.1 Inclusion of clauses in local DCP requiring new developments to improve damage resistance.</p>	<p>June 2018</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>Contribute to internal consultation process of new DCP by June 2018</p>
<p>3.3.2 Reduce the likelihood of malicious damage occurring by:</p> <p>Providing CPTED advice to consent authority regarding development applications to ensure design and materials used in developments are damage resistant, and management plans are in place for timely repair of damage to property.</p>	<p>3.3.2 Provide ongoing advice to Council's development compliance team to monitor the uptake of damage resistant designs, materials and management plans for damage restoration.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>Reviewed monthly through Council reporting processes</p>
<p>3.3.3 Maintaining and improving rapid response to incidence of damage by:</p> <p>Supporting the continued allocation of adequate resources within Council for the rapid removal of graffiti and repair of other types of malicious damage on public property under the responsibility of Council.</p>	<p>3.3.3 Continue to resource current timely response to the removal of graffiti and repair of vandalism on public property that Council is responsible to maintain.</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>\$243 000 per annum (LMCC budget allocation)</p>	<p>Annual review of progress in July each year</p>
<p>3.3.4 Maintaining and improving rapid response to incidence of damage by:</p> <p>Maintain and improve the partnership with other government agencies and community based programs for the timely removal of graffiti on public utilities (other than those indicated in 3.3.3), commercial and private properties.</p>	<p>3.3.4 Improve response times for repair of damage on public utilities, commercial and residential premises.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>\$25 000 per annum (LMCC budget allocation)</p>	<p>Reviewed monthly through Council reporting processes</p>

<p>3.3.5 Increase awareness of reporting systems and uptake of reporting damage by:</p> <p>Conduct community awareness raising campaign to increase awareness of NSW Graffiti Hotline reporting system and local government response to graffiti damage.</p>	<p>3.3.5 Increase in community reporting incidents graffiti to the Graffiti Hotline.</p>	<p>July 2015 – June 2016</p>	<p>\$1000 (LMCC budget allocation)</p>	<p>Reviewed through monthly Council reporting processes over implementation period</p>
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3.4 Assault – Domestic Violence

Action	Performance	Time frames	Funding required	Milestones
3.4.1 Raise the level of education surrounding domestic violence in the community.	3.4.1 Number of community awareness projects/campaigns.	Ongoing	Grant funding sought depending on activities	Annual review of progress
3.4.2 Increase the level of participation of the community in domestic violence committees.	3.4.2a Undertake a membership drive campaign.	2015 – 2016	Nil	Annual review of progress
	3.4.2b Number of events and campaigns conducted to raise awareness in community.	Ongoing	Grant funding sought depending on activities	Annual review of progress
	3.4.2c Annual review progress of committees.	Annual	Nil	Annual review of progress
3.4.3 Support collaboration between domestic violence committees in Lake Macquarie to improve sharing of resources.	3.4.3 Number of joint projects conducted by committees.	Ongoing	Nil	Annual review of progress

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the strategy will remain the responsibility of Lake Macquarie City Council. Council's Community Planner for Safer Communities will be responsible for ensuring the implementation and evaluation of the program. Council will rely on the cooperation of NSW Police to provide relevant statistical and crime information for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation of the strategy. The specific measures to be implemented to ensure monitoring and evaluation are identified in the following tables (4.1 Monitoring; 4.2 Evaluation and Data Collection).

4.1 Monitoring

Crime Category	Performance Indicators	Timeframes	Role of Project Partners
4.1.1 Residential Burglary	4.1.1a Promotion of security recommendations to all new residential development applicants	July 2015 – June 2018	Council and Police to develop good practice recommendations Council to produce education material Council to disseminate education material
	4.1.1b Number of development applications where security measures are recommended	July 2015 – June 2018	Council will review development applications and make recommendations to applicants
	4.1.1c Number of residents receiving information re prevention of residential burglary	July 2015 – June 2018	Council and Police to develop education / awareness campaign materials Police to identify victims to receive mail out information Council to produce campaign materials and disseminate information as required
	4.1.1d Number of residents utilising property marking program	July 2015 – June 2016	Council in partnership with Police to develop and implement program
	4.1.1e Number of residents receiving information re recording identifying information of personal goods	July 2015 – June 2018	Council to consult Police in the development of awareness materials Council and Police to disseminate information
4.1.2 Steal from Motor Vehicle	4.1.2a Number of car parking facilities applying for upgrade grants Number of improvements made to car parking facilities	Jan 2016 – Jan 2019	Council and Police to provide information and advice to car park operators / owners seeking their cooperation Council to promote and deliver grant program Car park operators / owners to report improvements
	4.1.2b Number of development applications scrutinised to ensure Australian Standards are maintained	July 2015 – June 2018	Council officers to monitor development applications and provide advice where warranted
	4.1.2c Number of grant applications received for signage installation Number of signs erected to inform car park users about crime prevention	Jan 2016 – June 2019	Council and Police to provide information and advice to car park operators / owners seeking their cooperation Council to promote and deliver grant program Car park operators / owners to report improvements

	4.1.2d Annual implementation of 'Operation Bounce Back' campaign	October 2015 – December 2018	Council to apply for grant to operate program where offered by NMVTRC Council to partner with Police and shopping centres in delivery of program
4.1.3 Malicious Damage	4.1.3a Inclusion of clause in local development control plan	June 2018	Council officer to provide advice as part of internal consultation process
	4.1.3b Provision of advice to development assessment and compliance department (DAC)	July 2015 – June 2018	Council officer to provide expert advice on development applicants where required DAC officers to ensure CPTED principles are adhered to in assessment of development applications before development is authorised
	4.1.3c Instances of removal of graffiti from property and infrastructure maintained by Council	July 2015 – June 2018	Council works department to operate program according to Council guidelines and operational requirements
	4.1.3d Ongoing partnership with external groups for the removal of graffiti from site other than that which Council is responsible to maintain	July 2015 – June 2018	Council to provide funding support to community based graffiti clean-up programs Council officer to establish, monitor and improve partnerships with external agencies and groups
	4.1.3e Conduct awareness raising campaign to increase reporting to graffiti hotline	July 2015 – June 2016	Council officer to conduct awareness raising campaign NSW Graffiti Hotline to provide promotional materials
4.1.4 Assault – Domestic Violence	Continuing high level of reporting of incidents of domestic violence by community members	July 2015 – June 2018	Police to provide information to domestic violence committees about reporting levels
	Agencies conduct area-wide awareness and education campaigns	July 2015 – June 2018	Domestic violence committees to deliver community awareness campaigns

4.2 Evaluation and data collection

Crime Category	Data to be collected and analysed	Risk factors considered	Unique impact of CPS
4.2.1 Residential Burglary	4.2.1a BOCSAR & NSW Police statistical information relating to break & enter dwelling and steal from dwelling for the period prior to commencement of the programs.	Target locations will be identified through consultation with Police re hotspots for crime activity and likelihood of re-victimisation.	<p>Comparison will be made between suburbs specifically targeted with interventions against those not specifically targeted (e.g. mail outs, property marking program).</p> <p>Comparison of locations only targeted with CPS interventions against those which received additional Police programs / operations.</p>
	4.2.1b BOCSAR & NSW Police statistical information relating to break & enter dwelling and steal from dwelling at 12 month intervals during implementation of programs.	Target locations will be identified through consultation with Police re hotspots for crime activity.	<p>Comparison will be made between suburbs specifically targeted with interventions against those not specifically targeted (e.g. mail outs, property marking program).</p> <p>Comparison of locations only targeted with CPS interventions against those which received additional Police programs / operations.</p>
4.2.2 Steal from Motor Vehicle	4.2.2a BOCSAR & NSW Police statistical information relating to break & enter dwelling and steal from dwelling for the period prior to commencement of the programs.	Target locations will be identified through consultation with Police re hotspots for crime activity.	<p>Comparison will be made between suburbs specifically targeted with interventions against those not specifically targeted (e.g. site audits, improvements through grants received).</p> <p>Comparison of locations only targeted with CPS interventions against those which received additional Police programs / operations.</p>
	4.2.2b BOCSAR & NSW Police statistical information relating to break & enter dwelling and steal from dwelling at 12 month intervals during implementation of programs.	Target locations will be identified through consultation with Police re hotspots for crime activity.	<p>Comparison will be made between suburbs specifically targeted with interventions against those not specifically targeted (e.g. site audits, improvements through grants received).</p> <p>Comparison of locations only targeted with CPS interventions against those which received additional Police programs / operations.</p>
4.2.3 Malicious Damage	4.2.3a Monthly operational reports indicating instances of CPTED advice provided.	Effective identification and referral by Council officers for expert advice.	Annual operational reports indicate the number of instances where developments have been required to implement CPTED specific advice.

	4.2.3b Monthly operational reports indicating instances of referral and effective resolution of incidents of graffiti.	Capacity of partner organisations and community based programs to respond to incidents referred.	Annual operational report demonstrating the number of incidents referred to partnership programs. Annual operation report indicating the number of incidents effectively resolved through partnership programs.
4.2.4 Assault – Domestic Violence	4.2.4a BOCSAR & NSW Police statistical information relating to assault – domestic violence for the period prior to and throughout the CPS implementation.	Target locations will be identified through consultation with Police for implementation of community education and awareness raising campaigns.	Comparison will be made between suburbs specifically targeted with interventions against those not specifically targeted (e.g. community education, awareness raising campaigns). Comparison of locations only targeted with CPS interventions against those which received additional Police programs / operations.

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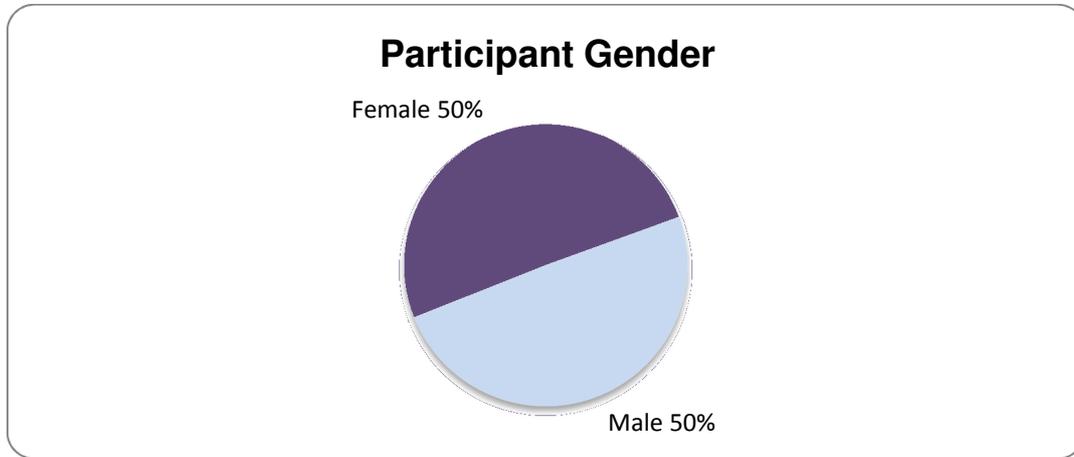
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Appendix 1: Community Safety Survey Results

The following findings are a summary of the information collected through the online survey conducted:

A1.1 Gender of respondents

The gender of respondents was evenly split with 151 males and 154 females completing the questionnaire.

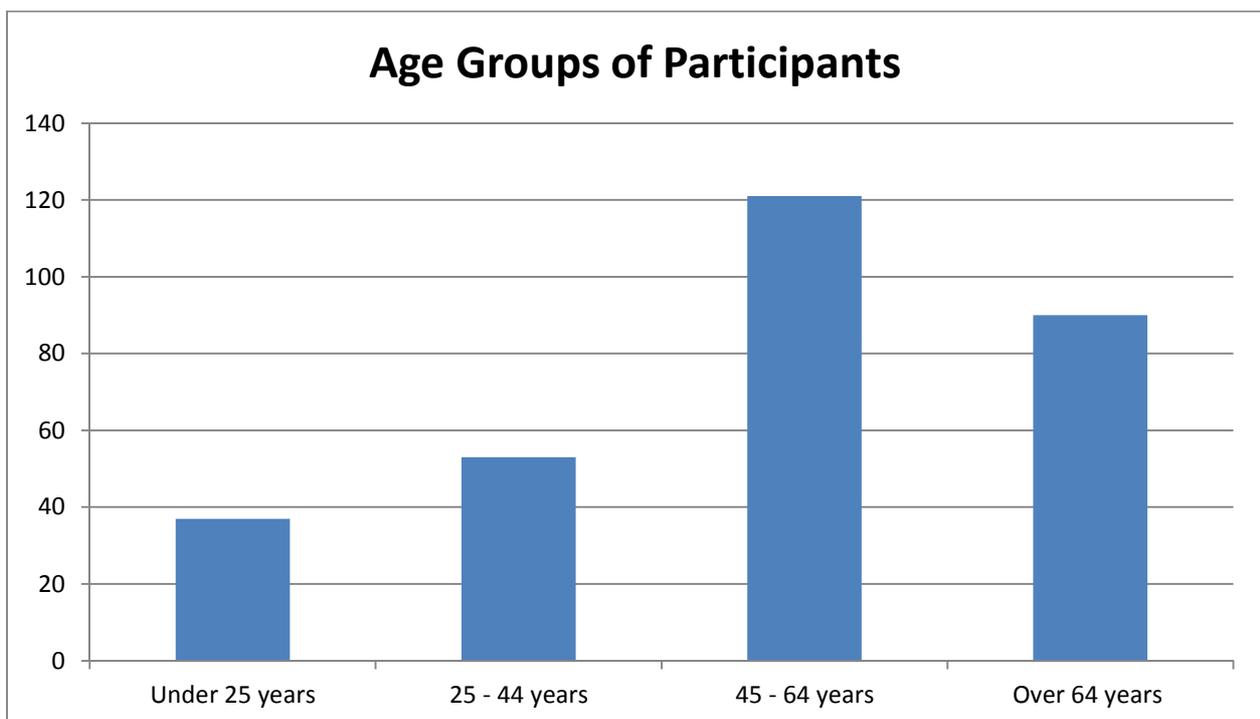


(Graph 1)

A1.2 Age of respondents

The age of respondents ranged from 88 years old to 16 years old representing 65 age groups (Appendix 2). The level of responses was evenly spread across the age range with a slight weighting towards the 16 and 17 years old groups which represents 10% (n=31) of the total (n=305).

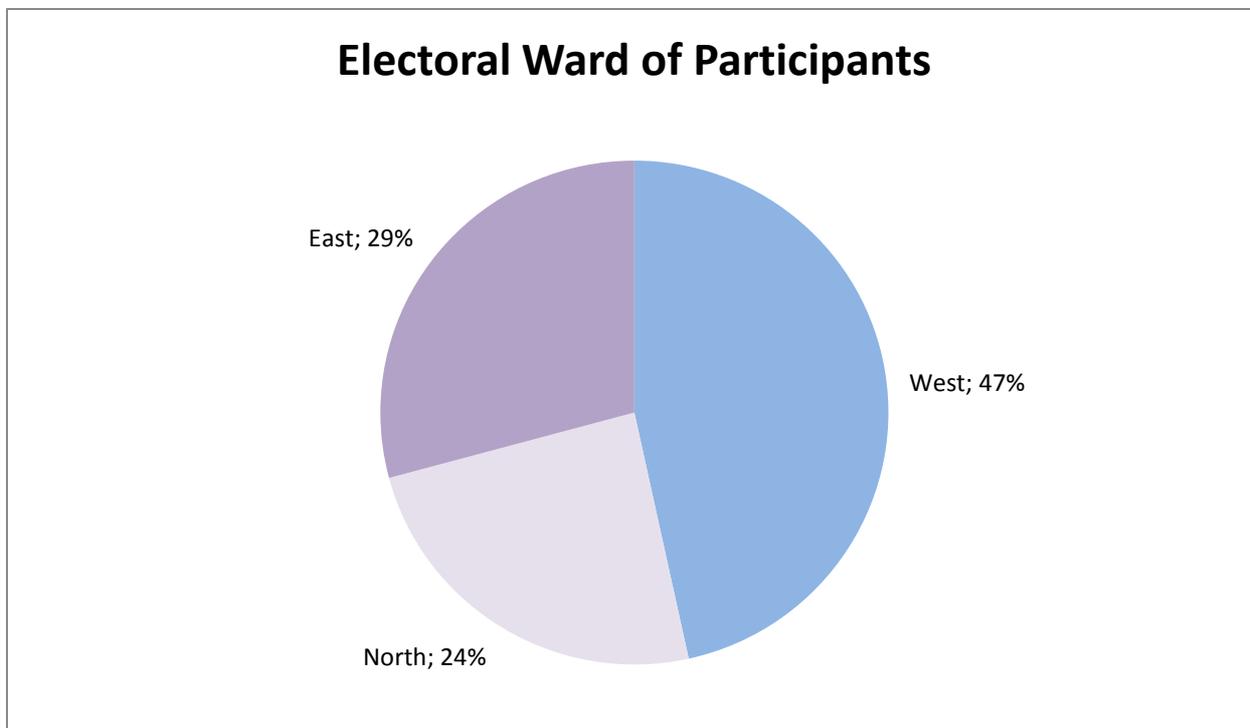
The age of those who participated in the survey has been broken down into four main groups, those under 25 years old (n=37 or 13%), those 25 to 44 years old (n=53 or 17%), those 45 to 64 years old (n=121 or 40%) and those aged over 64 years old (n=90 or 30%).



(Graph 2)

A1.3 Suburb of residence within Lake Macquarie

Those who participated in the survey are residents of 67 (n=59%) of the 114 suburbs in Lake Macquarie (Appendix 2). There was strong participation by residents of west electoral ward (n=142 or 47%) and an even spread of the remainder of the participants between east ward (n=89 or 29%) and north ward (n=74 or 24%). A full breakdown of participants by suburb has been included in Appendix 3 of the report.



(Graph 3)

A1.4 Perception of safety / fear of crime

The importance of perception of safety / fear of crime is well documented as an important factor for consideration in crime prevention planning (AIC 2012). The survey provided opportunity for respondents to rate their relative perception of safety living and working in Lake Macquarie.

A significant majority of respondents (89%) reported that they feel 'safe' (41% / n=125) or 'relatively safe' (48% / n=147) living and working in Lake Macquarie. A small number of people (7% / n=20) felt neither 'safe' or 'unsafe', and a smaller number (4% / n=12) felt 'unsafe'.

Participants were also asked to rate any change in their sense of personal safety over the past 2 – 3 years. A large majority (70% / n=213) indicated they feel 'about the same' but a significant number (20% / n=60) indicated that they feel 'less safe'. A small number of respondents (10% / n=31) indicated that they feel 'safer' now than 2 - 3 year ago.

A1.5 Impact of crime activity on respondents perceptions about crime

Using 10 of the most common crime categories as identified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics / Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, participants were asked to rank crime according to what they most feared occurring (see Table 9).

Using the same common crime categories, participants were also asked to rank crime according to those they believe they are most likely to succumb to as a victim (see Table 9)

Crime Category	1. Rank according to fear of occurrence of crime activity	2. Rank according to which crime respondents are most likely to be a victim
Steal from Motor Vehicle (SMV)	1	4
Steal from Person (SP)	2	1
Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT)	3	3
Personal Robbery (PR)	4	2
Harassment and Threatening Behaviour (HTB)	5	7
Malicious Damage including Graffiti (MD)	6	6
Break and Enter Retail / Business (BER)	7	9
Identity Theft (Fraud)	8	8
Assault	9	5
Residential Burglary (RB)	10	10

(Table 9)

Respondents ranked steal from motor vehicle, steal from person, motor vehicle theft and personal robbery in their top crime categories for both what crime they fear most being a victim of, and what crime they believe is most likely to occur to them.

Respondents ranked residential burglary (which includes break and enter dwelling, and steal from dwelling) as the least fearful crime and least likely to occur to them. This is despite the high priority given to this crime category by local Police and their concerns about the rates of residential burglary in the Lake Macquarie region.

A1.6 Rating of crime prevention activities

Participants were asked to rank in order of importance 15 good practice (AIC 2012) crime prevention activities (see Table 10)

Ranking according to importance	Crime prevention activity	Importance by %
1	Clean public places	95%
2	Clean public toilets	95%
3	Quick repair of vandalism to public facilities	92%
4	Lighting of public car parking areas	89%
5	Lighting of shared pathways	86%
6	Maintenance of foliage in public places	82%
7	Lighting parks after dark	77%
8	Shopping centre security	77%
9	CCTV in public places	77%
10	CCTV in shopping centres	77%
11	Quick removal of graffiti	77%
12	CCTV in public parking areas	72%
13	Increasing street lighting	69%
14	Public circulation of crime facts and figures	61%
15	Education campaign re home and car security	44%

(Table 10)

The good maintenance and up-keep of public facilities including the repair of vandalism were the top three (3) ranked responses by participants. Similarly, adequate lighting of public places, facilities and car parks were also ranked highly by respondents.

The use of CCTV was generally ranked lower than maintenance and lighting of public facilities. The provision and promotion of accurate and up to date factual information about crime activity in the area ranked as least important crime prevention activities.

A1.7 Rating of residential burglary prevention activities

Crime statistics and advice from NSW Police indicate that residential burglary as the top priority crime category that requires attention in the area of Lake Macquarie.

Participants were asked to rank the effectiveness of nine (9) good practice activities to prevent home burglary (see Table 11).

Residential burglary prevention activities	Ranking of effectiveness
Property marking program (e.g. engraving)	1
Support to victims of residential burglary	2
Awareness campaigns in high risk locations	3
Increase street lighting	4
Reduce concealment opportunities around dwellings	5
Installation of alarm systems	6
Installation of movement sensor lighting	7
Enlisting neighbours as property guardians	8
Improved home security fixtures and fittings	9

(Table 11)

A1.8 Rating of vehicle theft prevention measures

Crime statistics and advice from NSW Police indicate that theft from motor vehicles as the second highest priority crime category requiring attention in the area of Lake Macquarie.

Participants were asked to rank the effectiveness of seven (7) good practice measures for the prevention of theft from motor vehicles (see Table 12).

Measures to prevent theft from vehicles	Ranking of effectiveness
Signage in parking areas to alert vehicle owners	1
Installation of boom gates on car parks	2
Awareness raising campaigns	3
Parking attendants during peak periods	4
Improved design of car parks to enhance surveillance	5
Installation of CCTV in car parks	6
Improved lighting in place where cars are parked	7

(Table 12)

Appendix 2: Age of respondents to Lake Macquarie Community Safety Survey

The information presented represents the year of birth, corresponding age of respondents and the number of responses

Birth Year	Age	Responses	Birth Year	Age	Responses
1927	88	1	1970	45	8
1931	84	3	1971	44	2
1932	83	1	1972	43	4
1933	82	1	1973	42	5
1934	81	3	1974	41	2
1935	80	3	1975	40	2
1936	79	1	1976	39	2
1937	78	1	1977	38	4
1938	77	2	1978	37	4
1939	76	2	1979	36	5
1940	75	3	1980	35	1
1941	74	5	1981	34	1
1942	73	4	1982	33	6
1943	72	4	1983	32	5
1944	71	7	1984	31	6
1945	70	5	1985	30	1
1946	69	11	1986	29	1
1947	68	13	1987	28	1
1948	67	6	1990	25	1
1949	66	7	1994	21	2
1950	65	7	1995	20	1
1951	64	7	1996	19	1
1952	63	6	1997	18	2
1953	62	4	1998	17	20
1954	61	8	1999	16	11
1955	60	6			
1956	59	8			
1957	58	5			
1958	57	3			
1959	56	7			
1960	55	5			
1961	54	6			
1962	53	7			
1963	52	11			
1964	51	5			
1965	50	4			
1966	49	3			
1967	48	4			
1968	47	9			
1969	46	5			

Appendix 3: Suburb of Residence of Community Safety Survey Participants

The information presented represents the residential suburb of respondents, only Lake Macquarie suburbs being represented.

Suburb	#	Suburb	#
ARGENTON, NSW	4	HOLMESVILLE, NSW	1
AWABA, NSW	1	JEWELLS, NSW	5
BALCOLYN, NSW	2	KAHIBAH, NSW	1
BELMONT, NSW	4	KILABEN BAY, NSW	4
BELMONT NORTH, NSW	4	KOTARA SOUTH, NSW	1
BELMONT SOUTH, NSW	1	LAKELANDS, NSW	5
BLACKALLS PARK, NSW	4	MACQUARIE HILLS, NSW	3
BLACKSMITHS, NSW	1	MARKS POINT, NSW	5
BONNELLS BAY, NSW	9	MARMONG POINT, NSW	6
BOLTON POINT, NSW	12	MIRRABOOKA, NSW	1
BOOLAROO, NSW	3	MARTINSVILLE, NSW	1
BOORAGUL, NSW	7	MOUNT HUTTON, NSW	8
BRIGHTWATERS, NSW	2	MORISSET, NSW	3
CAMERON PARK, NSW	8	MORISSET PARK, NSW	3
CARDIFF, NSW	10	MURRAYS BEACH, NSW	2
CARDIFF HEIGHTS, NSW	1	RANKIN PARK, NSW	3
CARDIFF SOUTH, NSW	2	RATHMINES, NSW	7
CAREY BAY, NSW	3	REDHEAD, NSW	5
CATHERINE HILL BAY, NSW	1	SILVERWATER, NSW	1
CAVES BEACH, NSW	5	SPEERS POINT, NSW	15
CHARLESTOWN, NSW	14	SWANSEA, NSW	4
COAL POINT, NSW	1	TERALBA, NSW	3
COORANBONG, NSW	8	TINGIRA HEIGHTS, NSW	5
CROUDACE BAY, NSW	1	TORONTO, NSW	15
DORA CREEK, NSW	2	VALENTINE, NSW	12
DUDLEY, NSW	2	WAKEFIELD, NSW	1
EDGEWORTH, NSW	2	WANGI WANGI, NSW	7
ELEEBANA, NSW	13	WARNERS BAY, NSW	12
FENNELL BAY, NSW	3	WEST WALLSEND, NSW	2
FLORAVILLE, NSW	1	WHITEBRIDGE, NSW	1
GARDEN SUBURB, NSW	1	WINDALE, NSW	3
GATESHEAD, NSW	1	WOODRISING, NSW	6
GLENDALE, NSW	7	WYEE, NSW	1
		WYEE POINT, NSW	4

Version Control

Version No	Date	Details
1	23 March 2015	Draft document submitted to Council for public exhibition

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