



Community Safety & Crime PREVENTION PLAN



City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future



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**“ Reduce
the fear
of crime ”**

FOREWORD

For a number of years now the City of Greater Geraldton has been actively involved in working with the community to develop strategies that aim to increase community safety and crime prevention.

The City has long recognised that crime and the perception of crime has a negative effect on the community, and that local government authorities have a role to encourage collaboration to investigate the nature of crime and how best to provide localised solutions.

While traditionally crime reduction has been thought of as addressed through law enforcement, security operations and the criminal justice system, it is now agreed that community and other non-government agencies have a valuable role to play through social strategies.

The City's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee is made up of representatives from various agencies and community organisations. Members of this group provide guidance and expertise to address the issues highlighted in our Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan. The Committee is an excellent forum that allows the free flow of information and ideas, and connects members to facilitate better outcomes for our community.

We are already celebrating the successes of programs such as Safe Space, Midnight Basketball, Neighbourhood Watch Engraving Days and continual expansion of the CCTV network. The development of close relationships with both government and non-government agencies also further our progress.

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan outlines new initiatives that build on previous successes and further advance community safety in the City. The plan aims to identify measures of success for safety and crime prevention and foster an approach to community safety that is wholly embraced by the community and the City.

I encourage and thank all the dedicated and enthusiastic members of our community and representative agencies who continue to work together and take ownership of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan.



B. Hall

CR BOB HALL

GERALDTON POLICE

In 1829 Sir Robert Peel, the man considered the father of modern day policing, created nine principles of law enforcement. The one 'Peelian' principle I consistently reinforce to my officers is "The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them".

I am happy to say that at the time of writing this, the Mid West-Gascoyne Police District (including the Geraldton subdistrict) have reduced crime over the past two years and are well positioned to achieve that again this year.

This outcome has been achieved not only due to the diligent efforts and endeavours of my officers, but by them working collaboratively with a variety of government and non-government agencies and community members. Contrary to popular belief, police are not solely responsible for community crime issues as this is the responsibility of each and every community member. This may be as simple as community members better securing their residences, not leaving valuables in view in unattended vehicles, passing on valuable information or reporting suspicious behaviour.

Crime ultimately has three core elements - desire, opportunity and ability. If we can remove just one of these elements, the crime will not occur. This Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan (CS&CP) codifies strategies and initiatives we can all work on collaboratively to ensure our community is safe and secure for all. I encourage you to take the time to read this document and see what you can do to assist make Geraldton an even better place to live.

District Superintendent - Mike Bell

As the officer in Charge of Geraldton Police Station and an active member of the City of Greater Geraldton Crime Prevention Committee, I know the only way to disrupt and reduce crime is for the entire community to be involved from the grass roots and to take a no tolerance approach to crime. Geraldton Police has a strong partnership with the City of Greater Geraldton, government and other non-for profit organisations to change the cycle of young people from offending and committing crime in our community.

Supporting early intervention strategies and new and emerging communities is vital to the disruption of young people from a cycle of crime. We are working with our partners to design communities that are safe, secure and sustainable to reduce and eliminate crime hotspots and support each other.

Strong engagement with all stakeholders in the development of strategies to prevent crime and reduce the incidents of crime is vital in providing a safe environment for the community. Geraldton Police are using the latest innovation in policing from increased intelligence capability, suppression and enforcement activities to ensure the development of robust prevention strategies and precise resource allocation.

Geraldton Police will continue to work with the community to reduce the demand of illicit drugs and the effects of alcohol abuse and will continue with a firm approach to those that wish to cause harm to the community. As the Officer in Charge of Geraldton Police Station I endorse the goals, objectives of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan and am personally committed to making our community a safer place.

Officer in Charge - Brad Bird

MULLEWA POLICE

As the new officer in charge of Mullewa Police Station and part of the City of Greater Geraldton Crime Prevention Committee, I strongly believe that crime prevention is a key element in fighting the fear of crime and keeping the community safe. Crime prevention is the responsibility of the whole community and we at Mullewa Police Station will do our part in actively coordinating a positive response.

The Western Australia Police Force plays a vital role in communicating crime trends to the community and to other stakeholders within the community. We will take an active part in the development of prevention strategies and strongly support a crime prevention plan. I look forward to working closely with the other members of the panel and assisting in its future development. As the officer in charge of Mullewa Police Station I fully endorse the goals of the plan and am fully committed to achieving its objectives with the aim of making our community a safer place.

Officer in Charge - Chris Martin



Strategic alignment with the Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027

The City of Greater Geraldton Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027 is a blueprint for the future direction of the City and its community members. It represents a shared community vision and sets out long term strategies designed to strengthen and build on Greater Geraldton's unique assets.

MAJOR GOAL: COMMUNITY

The Community Safety Crime Prevention plan contributes to the achievement of the major goal of community, which aims to value our sense of community, our small town feel and the lifestyle opportunities of our coastal location and bushland.

OBJECTIVE 1.3 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

One of the four performance measures under this objective is directly related to the CSCP Plan. That is:

- 1.3.4 Encouraging initiatives to improve community safety.

OBJECTIVE 1.5 RECOGNISE, VALUE AND SUPPORT EVERYONE

Four of the six performance measures under this objective are directly related to the CSCP Plan:

- 1.5.1 Supporting and strengthening community groups, organisations and volunteer services
- 1.5.2 Supporting young people to develop the skills to make valuable contributions to their communities
- 1.5.3 Providing community services and programs that support people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds
- 1.5.4 Supporting initiatives that enhance education and learning opportunities for all community members



“ Encouraging initiatives to improve community safety ”

Local Programs and Initiatives

The City of Greater Geraldton has had many successes in the area of Community Safety and Crime Prevention. When addressing the new plan we must analyse and acknowledge past achievements within our community. Some notable programs and initiatives include:

- U-Turn Project 2016-2018
- PCYC Safe Space Program 2018
- Midnight Basketball 2007-2018
- Friday Night Football 2016-2018
- Return to Country Camps 2017
- Mitchell Street Community Centre 2016-2018
- Neighbourhood Watch engraving days 2017
- Continual expansion of the CCTV network

It must be recognised that many more programs and projects that have not been identified here, have taken place in the City of Greater Geraldton in recent years. Every project is considered valuable and every project has contributed toward creating a safer and more secure environment.



Agency Cooperation

Some agencies contributing to the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan are listed below. It is recognised that the included agencies vary due to renaming, restructuring and the ever broadening scope of outcomes undertaken by the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee.

CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON COUNCILLORS

Cr Hall (Chair)

Cr Reymond

Cr Critch

Cr Tanti

Cr Colliver

CORE

MEEDAC

WA Police – OIC Geraldton

WA Police – Mid West Gascoyne Youth Engagement Team

WA Police – OIC Mullewa

CGG Youth Crime Prevention Officer

CGG Manager Urban and Regional Development

CGG Coordinator Ranger Services

OTHER CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Ian Blayney MLA

Geraldton Community Member

Mullewa Community Member

Midwest Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation

Department of Corrective Services

Community Alcohol and Drug Services

Hope Community Services

Desert Blue Connect

Police and Community Youth Centre

Youth Justice Services

CGG Coordinator Youth Development

Priority Strategies

The Community Safety Crime Prevention Committee held a workshop with assistance from the Office of Crime Prevention in June 2015 to identify priority strategies. The outcome of the workshop was the identification of priority areas for the committee to focus on. It is noted that some agencies and groups do not have influence or act across all parts of the City, therefore their contribution may be restricted to particular geographic locations or specific demographics. However, all contributions are important and through the ongoing effort and collaboration of all stakeholders, progress can be made and change achieved. The areas now considered by the CSCP Committee as those needing attention are as follows:

1. BREAKING CYCLES & BUILDING FUTURES THROUGH SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

We will help to break the cycles of disadvantage, exclusion and isolation that lead to future offending behaviour.

Early intervention strategies are critically important to preventing future offending behaviour in our children and youth. Through this focus area, we intend to support our partners in engaging those people in our community who do not traditionally have a voice in mainstream decision-making, and understand how best to support them to build positive futures.

2. CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN & MANAGEMENT

We will create environments where people feel welcome and safe.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design and Management, or CPTEDM (pronounced "septed"), is a multi-disciplinary approach to reducing and deterring criminal behaviour through the design and management of environments. It involves applying a range of design principles to a site to minimise the potential for that site to facilitate and support criminal behaviour. It also involves managing the site in a way that maintains those design principles over the long term so the site always reduces and deters criminal behaviour. The City will intensify the application of the CPTEDM approach and has embedded it as the 'business as usual' approach to designing and managing public facilities and spaces.



3. PREVENTING & REDUCING REPORTED CRIME

We will prevent and reduce the incidence of current reported crime

Thanks to the intelligence provided by the WA Police databases, tracking the incidence and location of assaults, burglaries, graffiti, robberies and motor vehicle theft in the Greater Geraldton region is straightforward. We want to use this intelligence to become more proactive in preventing and reducing these crimes. The types and locations of crime change over time, and it is important that we work with residents to keep them informed and up to date with what is happening in their suburbs. We want to reduce the fear of crime, reduce preventable crime, encourage reporting, improve home and personal security and reduce the incidence of vandalism and graffiti on private and public property.

4. REDUCING THE HARMFUL USE OF ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

We will reduce the risk of alcohol and other drug-related harm in the City of Greater Geraldton area.


The harmful use of alcohol and other drugs results in considerable health, social, environmental and financial costs to the community. The City of Greater Geraldton is committed to working with key stakeholders and being involved in alcohol and other drug related crime prevention activities over the next four years.

5. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

We will develop and encourage acceptable standards of behaviour in public places.

Antisocial behaviour continues to be a major concern across the community and requires a community-wide approach to address the issue. It is often linked to the excessive use of alcohol and drugs and a lack of activities that meet the demands of all community members. On other occasions it relates to perceptions created by the media, or low tolerance to different groups or individuals behaving or looking differently. Efforts and coordinated strategies across agencies will be ongoing and directed at hotspots and some of the underlying issues for the behaviour, including virtual spaces on social media.

Two resourcing levels have been identified for initiatives listed under these priority strategies. Some initiatives can be undertaken within staff resources and existing budgets through the City and other party agencies, however some will require additional external funding, as outlined in the tables below. Applications for additional funding will be prioritised by the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee and carried out by the most relevant of the member agencies.



“...become more proactive in preventing and reducing these crimes”

Initiatives under Strategy 1: Breaking cycles and building futures through social development

We will strive to break the cycles of disadvantage, exclusion and isolation that lead to future offending behaviour.

OBJECTIVE 1.1: TO ENGAGE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE EFFECTIVELY TO PROMOTE SAFE BEHAVIOURS AND PREVENT AT RISK YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ENTERING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Key Actions	Stakeholders	Resources	Success
A) Support youth and community organisations and networks to respond to disadvantage and emerging need by leveraging their existing knowledge and strengths during peak criminal activity periods	Collaborative approach from all agencies Attend youth networking meetings Attend Integrated Offender Case Management Working Group Meetings Provide support letters for funding applications as they arise	Additional funds required	Young people who are in need are given the help and support they need to change their circumstances Number and range of diversionary activities delivered
B) Design and animate public spaces in ways that celebrate young people, diversity and enhance safety and community cohesion	CGG – Youth, Events, Urban, Council	Additional funds required	Young people are actively involved in their communities and feel safe when they are out. They experience a city where people care about each other.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: TO PROMOTE YOUTH IN A POSITIVE WAY

Key Actions	Stakeholders	Resources	Success
A) Develop a media campaign that showcases positive youth stories and outcomes of youth projects and shared through member agency's accounts	CGG – Youth, Communications Team Local Media outlets	In house - CGG	A minimum of six media activities implemented per year

OBJECTIVE 1.3: TO SUPPORT PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT ARE CURRENTLY OPERATIONAL IN OUR COMMUNITY

Key Actions	Stakeholders	Resources	Success
A) Member organisations to support the Community, Respect & Equality project	Desert Blue Connect CGG – Communications Team, Community Development NGOs	In house - CGG	Increase number of relevant social media posts with #RespectRules #ViolenceIsNeverOK
B) Members to promote Community, Respect & Equality Champion project	CGG – Community Development NGOs	In house - CGG	Number of Community Champions trained by Chrysalis
C) Investigate the possibility of implementing a 'Preventing Violence against Women Strategy'	CGG – HR	Additional funds required	Family Violence Policy/Strategy implemented
D) Members to support the March Against Violence and Men's Rising Breakfast	Desert Blue Connect CGG NGOs	In house - CGG	Number of participants at the events

OBJECTIVE 1.4 UTILISE MENTORING PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM

Key Actions	Stakeholders	Resources	Success
A) Utilise Repay WA where appropriate for graffiti removal (develop relationship with utility agencies to improve removal of graffiti on private property)	Youth Justice Community – Snap, Send, Solve & CGG partnership	Additional funds required - State Graffiti Fund	Reduce recidivism – measured by YJ
B) Reduce graffiti through application of legal murals	CGG – GRAG Public Arts Committee	Additional funds required	Number of legal murals created
C) Investigate the possibility of a Youth Hub/Centre	CGG – Youth	Additional funds required	Provides young people with a place to go as a one-stop shop for information and immediate referral to relevant services and programs

Initiatives under Strategy 2: Designing out Crime

We will create environments where people feel welcome and safe.

OBJECTIVE 2.1: DEVELOP AND MANAGE THE CITY OF GERALDTON'S BUILT AND LANDSCAPED ENVIRONMENT BASED ON CPTEDM PRINCIPLES.

Key Actions	Stakeholders	Resources	Success
A) Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) concepts and Department of Planning's Designing Out Crime Guidelines into town planning and urban renewal activity	CGG – Urban, Rangers WA Housing Authority		Demonstration that the CPTED concepts are incorporated into Development Strategies, Structure Plans and subdivision applications prepared or supported by CGG relating to hot spots
B) Install Look Lock Leave and Beach Watch signage at local car parks	NHW WAPOL Rangers	Additional funds required	Number of signs installed
C) Support place making initiatives and neighbourhood building programs that activate public spaces, foster community ownership and pride in private and public spaces and contribute to a sense of community and belonging	CGG - Urban		Number of place making initiatives endorsed by Council Number of Community Grants and Community Project Support Grants

OBJECTIVE 2.2: INCREASE THE PROVISION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SERVICES THAT SUPPORT PUBLIC SAFETY AND PREVENT CRIME IN THE CITY

Key Actions	Stakeholders	Resources	Success
A) Continue the extension and enhancement of the CCTV network to support intelligence led policing	CGG – Rangers, IT, Council WAPOL	Additional funds required	CCTV system and service consistently reliable for all users
B) Increase public awareness through media, signage and promotional activities of CCTV and how to access assistance	CGG – Communications Team WAPOL	Additional funds required	Marketing plan being implemented effectively during 2018 and onwards
C) Conduct and promote safety and crime prevention education and awareness activities in Geraldton and Mullewa	CGG – Youth Community safety groups WAPOL	In house - CGG Additional funds required WAPOL OCP education resources	Community participating in activities in 2018 and onwards

Initiatives under Strategy 3: Reduce the fear of crime

We will prevent and reduce the incidence of current reported crime.

OBJECTIVE 3.1: TO SUPPORT, DEVELOP AND EXPAND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PROGRAM IN GERALDTON AND MULLEWA

Key Actions	Stakeholders	Resources	Success
A) Promote the principles and activities of NHW program throughout the community to encourage new memberships	NHW members CGG – Customer service, Communications Team	Addition fund required	Membership numbers gradually increase
B) Community Safety Workshops at the QEII Centre for seniors	NHW Geraldton WAPOL CGG- Community Development	In house CGG	Number of attendees at presentations
C) Safety for Seniors tips leaflets to be developed and distributed	WAPOL	Additional funds required	Number of leaflets produced

OBJECTIVE 3.2: TO FACILITATE A COMMUNITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE POSITIVE PERCEPTION OF GERALDTON AND MULLEWA

Key Actions	Stakeholders	Resources	Success
A) Positive news stories on social media	CGG – Communications Team Geraldton Visitor Centre WA Police	In house - CGG	A minimum of six positive stories per year
B) Promote outcomes of CSCP activities and initiatives through CGG social media and share through member agency's accounts	CGG - Communications Team Member agencies	In house	Quarterly update of activities/initiatives distributed

Initiatives under Strategy 4: Reducing the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs

We will reduce the risk of alcohol and other drug-related harm in the Geraldton and Mullewa communities.

OBJECTIVE 4.1: MANAGE AND REDUCE HARM TO AND BY PEOPLE WHO ARE AFFECTED BY EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL USE OR OTHER SUBSTANCES

Key Actions	Stakeholders	Resources	Success
A) Monitor and target enforcement of street drinking (intelligence led policing) to create a sense of community safety	WAPOL MEEDAC Community members Geraldton Liquor Accord Mullewa Liquor Accord CGG - Rangers	WAPOL	Number of CCTV observations Number of infringements

OBJECTIVE 4.2: PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE SERVICE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL

Key Actions	Stakeholders	Resources	Success
A) Target enforcement of intoxication laws in licensed venues and public places	WAPOL	WAPOL	Number of infringements
B) Members to support the existing Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Group	All	In house - CGG	Number of active members in the AODMG

Initiatives under Strategy 5: Anti-Social Behaviour

We will develop and encourage acceptable standards of behaviour in public places.

OBJECTIVE 5.1: IDENTIFY AND MANAGE HOT SPOT AREAS FOR ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN GERALDTON AND MULLEWA

Key Actions	Stakeholders	Resources	Success
A) Coordinate a low tolerance approach by police to target and manage anti-social behaviour	WAPOL	WAPOL	Reduction of crime rates Reduced number of assaults
B) Regular liaison between WAPOL, CGG, government and non-government agencies and community groups to discuss and address hot spots	WAPOL CGG - Rangers NGOs MEEDAC	In house by all agencies	Regular attendance at crime prevention meetings Reduced rates of crime in relation to anti-social behaviour

OBJECTIVE 5.2: ENCOURAGE ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR IN PUBLIC PLACES

Key Actions	Stakeholders	Resources	Success
A) Support education programs to reduce antisocial behaviour and excessive alcohol consumption	AODMG	Government programs – Alcohol think again etc	Number of education activities delivered
B) Encourage alcohol free public events to attract a diverse range of people to the city	CGG Events; Vibrancy	In house CGG	Increased number of alcohol-free major events supported by CGG

Acknowledgements

The City of Greater Geraldton recognises the support of agencies and individuals who contribute to making the community safer.

Specifically the City recognises the input of agencies that devote time to attend meetings of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee, Integrated Offender Case Management Working Group meetings, Regional Human Services Managers meetings and other community committees.

Often the valuable volunteers of the community go unrecognised. While all these persons are not able to be identified, it should be noted that their contribution to the community is highly valued.





City of
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