

Kiama Council

Crime Prevention Plan

July 2013

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1.0 Introduction

The Kiama Municipality covers an area of approximately 259 square kilometres, with the main commercial centre being the seaside township of Kiama which is located 120kms south of Sydney in the Illawarra, New South Wales. The municipality has several separate villages, being Jamberoo, Gerringong, Gerroa and Kiama Downs. The Estimated Resident Population (ERP) as determined by Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) [which is considered as the official population statistic] of the Local Government Area (LGA) is 20,843 as of the 30 June 2012. Kiama features several popular surfing beaches, caravan parks and numerous alfresco cafes and restaurants and attracts a large number of day trippers from Sydney.

It is Kiama's proximity to Australia's largest city that contributes to the complex blend of social and economic dynamics that create a unique mix of challenges for managing and ameliorating crime within the LGA, where offending behaviour is at its highest levels during the peak tourism seasons.

Some recent incidents (including 2 armed robberies in or very near the Kiama Central Business District [CBD]) have brought a renewed focus on the need to implement strategies and install key infrastructure that can assist with reducing the likelihood of offending behaviour, while increasing the ability to identify those committing offences. It is generally accepted that the majority of crime is opportunistic in nature and if people see an opportunity to commit a crime and believe that they are unlikely to be caught, they are more likely to commit it. Therefore, reducing opportunities to commit crime, and increasing the likelihood of being caught, are the two single most effective strategies to reduce crime.

Gerringong, Jamberoo and Kiama Downs have also experienced an armed robbery each over the past twelve months, and it is recognised that strategies need to address the incidence of crime throughout the whole Municipality; however, statistically the highest crime area is in the vicinity of the Kiama township. Gerringong has also experienced peaks in crimes such as break and enter and stealing, and residents have advocated over a long period of time for a permanent police presence in the town as a crime prevention measure. This plan seeks to identify crime trends and priorities and develop a range of responses to minimise offending behaviour. A widely adopted approach to addressing crime prevention is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), which attempts to reduce the likelihood of crime through better design principles. This will be a consideration for Council in this Plan. Activities from the Crime Prevention Plan (CPP) will also be incorporated into Councils overall planning framework of Integrated Planning and Reporting.

2.0 CRIME PROFILE

2.1 Kiama Crime Statistics and Trends

Kiama deservedly does not have a reputation as having a particular crime problem. However there are some key areas where crime is having a negative impact and overall is contributing to a reduced perception of safety; therefore needs to be addressed.

For the 12 month period from January through to December 2012, the four most recorded incidents were:

- 1) Steal from motor vehicle - 138 recorded incidences
- 2) Malicious damage to property – 82 recorded incidences
- 3) Break and enter dwelling – 71 recorded incidences
- 4) Break and enter non dwelling – 46 recorded incidences

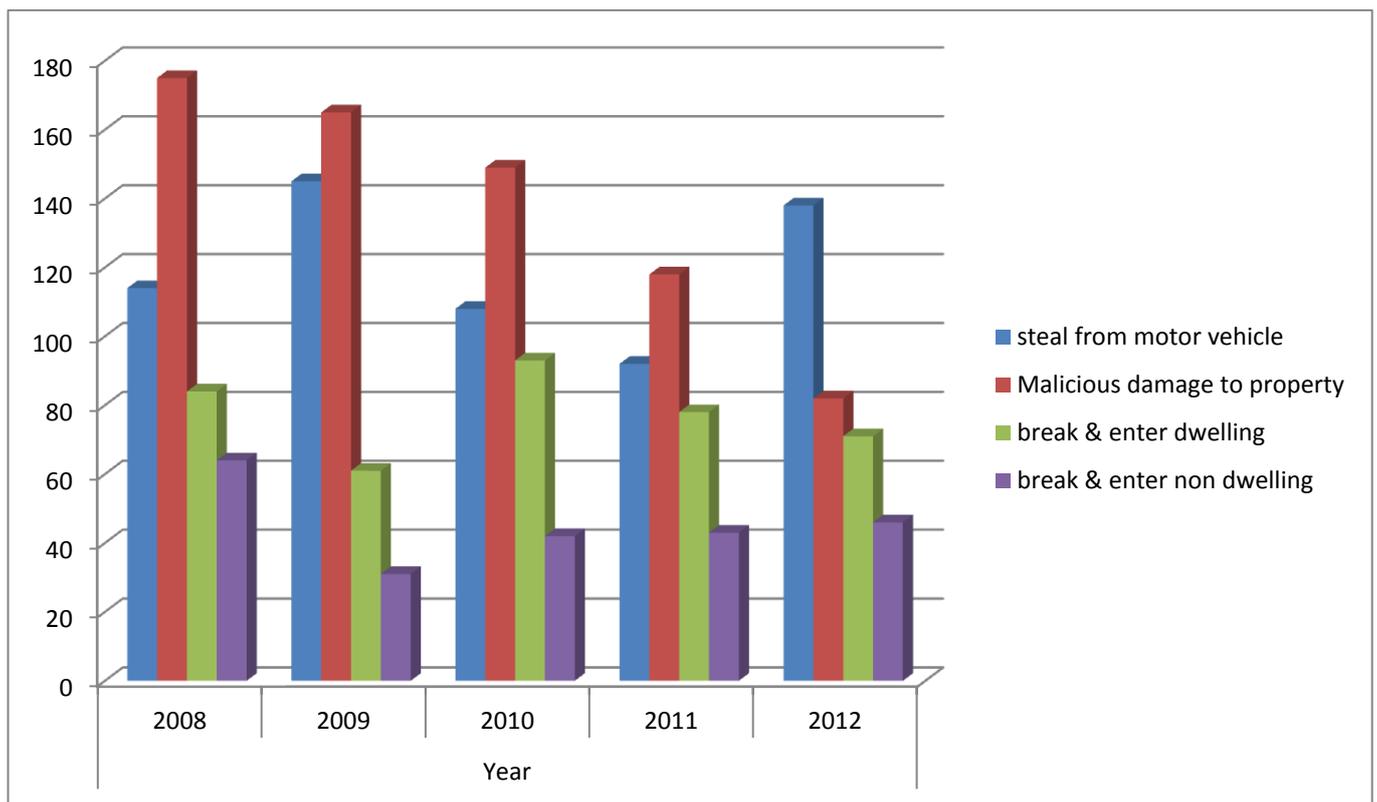


Figure 1. – 4 most prominent offences over last five years

From these statistics in Figure 1, it can be seen that although malicious damage to property is trending down, steal from motor vehicle and break and enter dwelling & non dwelling, are either trending up or remaining stable overall at unacceptable levels.

Part of Kiama’s unique challenge is managing crime during peak holiday periods. From the below chart (Figure 2), it can be seen that the highest levels of offending behaviour takes place during key holiday periods, in particular January and December with ‘Robbery’ being significantly higher during the month of December .

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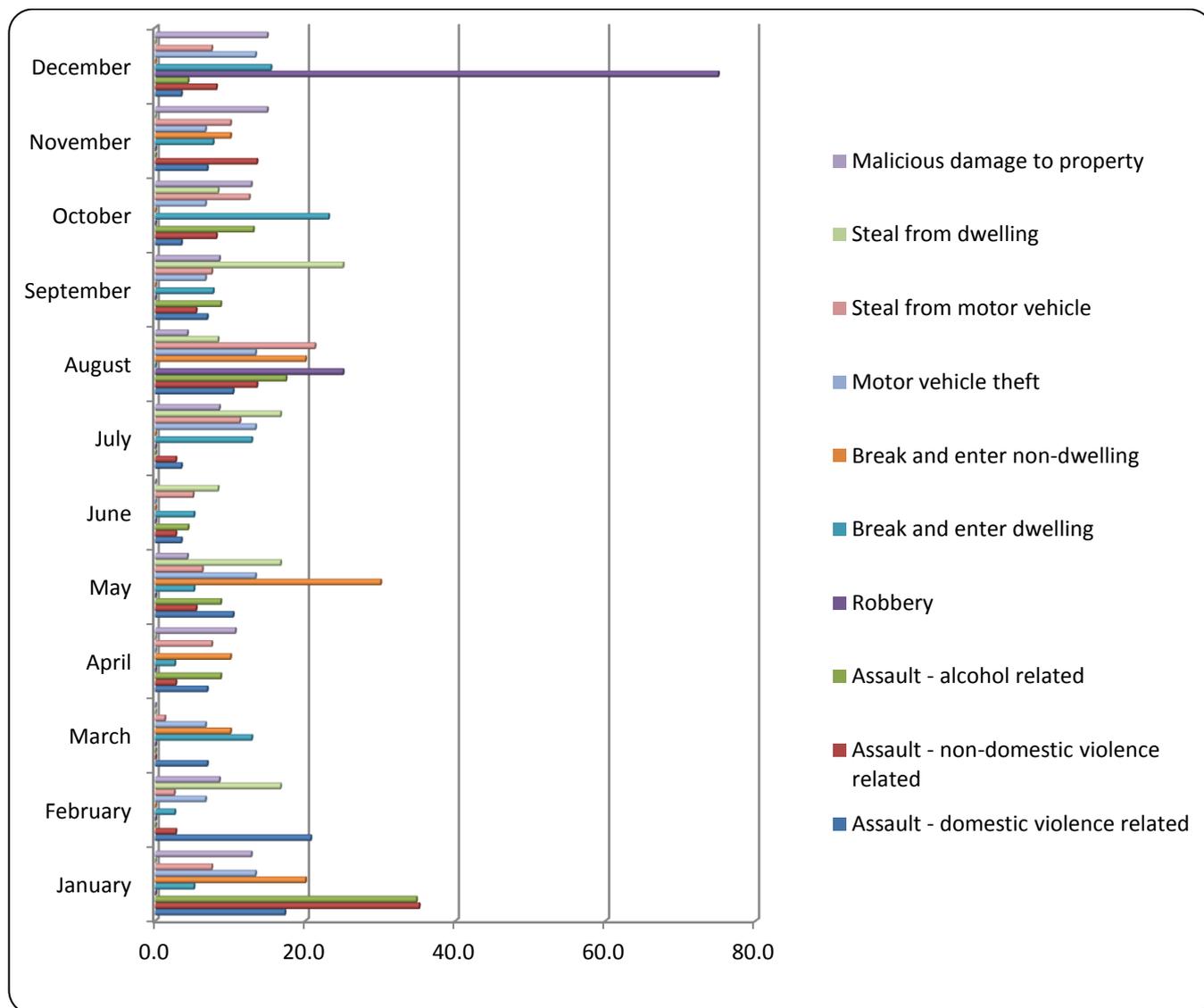


Figure 2. – Offences over 12 months January 2012 to December 2012

2.2 Local Crime Priorities

Priority Area 1: Offences committed within the Kiama CBD

Priority Area 2: Steal from motor vehicle

Offence	Hot Spot	Priority times	Victims
Offences committed within the Kiama CBD	Kiama Central Business District	Outside standard business hours	Local businesses
Steal from motor vehicle	Holiday parks and other tourist hot spots	Peak holiday periods	Tourists & residents

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Figure 3 (below) shows that Kiama CBD experienced more than 2.5 times as many offences (268) than any other Kiama LGA suburb (Gerringong 115), and just under half of all offences committed (582) within the Kiama LGA over the 12 month period of May 2012 to May 2013.

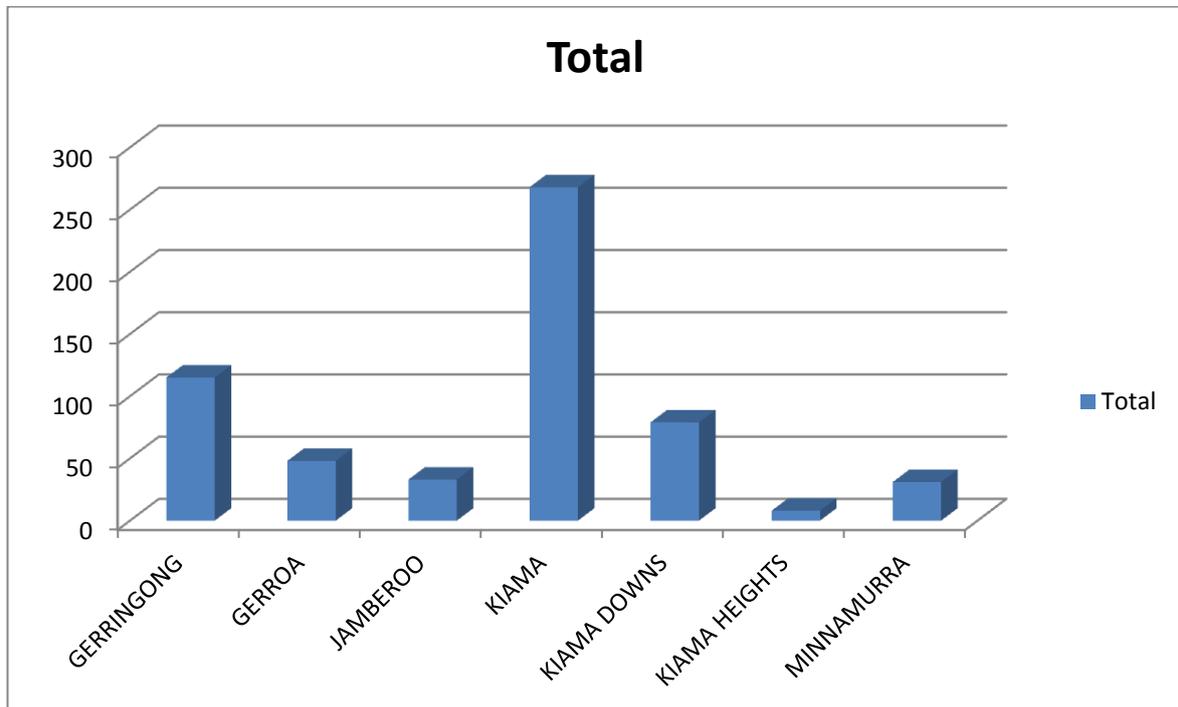


Figure 3. – Breakdown of total offences committed by suburb for period May 2012 to May 2013.

2.3 Capacity

Kiama LGA has a unique and complex blend of social and economic dynamics that create a unique mix of challenges for managing and ameliorating crime within the LGA. This mix means Council's greatest capacity lies in its ability to implement targeted strategies aimed at 'hot spots' in the most economically efficient and timely manner.

The majority of crime in the Municipality is considered to be opportunistic. That is, if people see an opportunity to commit a crime and believe that they are unlikely to be caught, they are more likely to commit an offence. Council's most effective strategies to reduce crime are best targeted at reducing opportunity through CPTED, and increasing deterrent factors.

The installation of key infrastructure, such as CCTV cameras in targeted locations, will increase deterrent factors, while implementing planning and control measures based on CPTED, will reduce opportunities to commit crimes in the first place.

Council has limited financial resources, therefore it is seen as prudent to concentrate on areas of greatest need first, and then roll out further strategies over time to other areas of the Municipality based on what is learnt from initial strategy implementation.

2.4 Situation Analysis

Kiama has two key 'Hot Spot's': the CBD in general, and Holiday Parks during peak holiday periods. The CBD includes licensed venues that also experience unacceptable levels of alcohol related incidents at times, however, these venues are already monitored by CCTV. Therefore the strategies contained in this plan are seen as complimentary to the measures these venues already have in place.

2.5 Stakeholders

It is recognised that there are a range of stakeholders in any Crime Prevention Plan and it is intended that stakeholders will be consulted on an ongoing basis as strategies are developed and implemented over the life of this plan.

Kiama Council has established a Community Safety Committee and part of the role of this Committee will be to engage with stakeholders including: Kiama Council, local businesses, Chamber of Commerce, NSW Police, local tourism operators, Kiama Liquor Accord, local & regional transport operators, and Kiama residents.

2.6 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Community Safety Committee will have responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of the Crime Prevention Plan. Strategies implemented in this plan will be reviewed each 12 months, with the overall plan to be reviewed in 3 years time, then each Council term thereafter. The evaluation process will consider crime statistics and trends for the Municipality as well as community perception around the issue of safety.

Based on these reviews, successful strategies will be rolled out to other areas of the Municipality such as Jamberoo and Gerringong villages, with any appropriate modification to suit the needs of the different communities and subject to available resources. Further initiatives will also be developed as required to address any emerging trends, and identification of funding sources and other resources will be carried out on an ongoing basis by the Crime Safety Committee.

1. Crime Prevention Action Plan

<u>Target Offence:</u>	Offences committed within the Central Business District
<u>Project:</u>	Installation of CCTV Camera's
<u>Rationale:</u>	Contribute to reducing incidence of crime through increased deterrent factors
<u>Objective:</u>	Crime reduction
<u>Lead Agency & Partners:</u>	Kiama Municipal Council
<u>Expected Outcome:</u>	Reduction in offences committed with in the Kiama CBD

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
1.1 Investigate the requirements for installation of CCTV in Kiama CBD, develop plan for implementation, and pursue funding for installation.	Completion of Investigation Plan developed	3 months	In-kind	Investigation completed, plan developed, with funding secured.
1.2 Installation of CCTV cameras according to plan	Cameras installed. Evidence of an overall reduction of crimes committed within the Kiama CBD Evidence of the effectiveness of CCTV as a deterrent factor.	12 months	\$130 000	Cameras installed.
1.3 Development of a Code of Practice for the use of CCTV by Kiama Council in Kiama CBD, with proposed passive	- Code of Practice Developed, - Code of Practice adopted by Kiama Council	Prior to installation	Nil	Code of Practice adopted by Council MOU developed and

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<p>monitoring by Lake Illawarra Police Command. Development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NSW Police in regards to recording and storage of images including consideration of Privacy and Security requirements.</p>	- MOU developed			signed by both parties
<p>1.4 Review the strategy to address the other towns and suburbs as soon as practicable, subject to funding.</p>	Review undertaken	As soon as practicable	In-kind	Key learning's identified.
<p>1.5 Advocate for increased police presence in LGA to contribute to deterrent measures.</p>	Increased police presence	ongoing	n/a	Increased police presence

2. Crime Prevention Action Plan

<u>Target Offence:</u>	Opportunistic offences
<u>Project:</u>	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Policy and Program
<u>Rationale:</u>	Research demonstrates that CPTED can reduce the opportunity for malicious damage and other crimes and enhance perceptions of safety. Incorporation of CPTED principles into Council’s planning controls, policies and maintenance program can ‘design out’ the opportunity for crime.
<u>Objective:</u>	Consideration of CPTED to be demonstrated in future development applications as well as Council’s maintenance regime.
<u>Lead Agency & Partners:</u>	Council, Illawarra Local Area Command, Government agencies
<u>Expected Outcome:</u>	Reduced opportunity for malicious damage and other crimes in future and redesigned developments in Kiama

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
2.1 Investigate the establishment of a CPTED Development Control Guidelines and Development Consent Conditions that establishes a minimum standard design to minimise the opportunity for crime in the design of buildings, parks, walkways, laneways, car parks, transport interchanges, bus shelters, shopping centres, retail premises and licensed premises.	Evidence of increased awareness of crime prevention principles across planners, architects, Council officers and community through identification of CPTED in development applications.	2013/14	Within existing resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of best practice design for key development types - Develop policy to address malicious damage issues in new developments - Drafting of CPTED guidelines - Consultation with Police and other stakeholders

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<p>2.2 Development of a formal CPTED assessment process for relevant DA in partnership with NSW Police.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy developed and implemented - Number of DA's CPTED assessed 	<p>2014/15</p>	<p>Within existing resources</p>	<p>Development of assessment tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of timely assessment process - Develop policy to address malicious damage issues in new developments
<p>2.3 Conduct a Street Lighting Audit (Safety audit) & visual audit (day time) in Kiama CBD to assess these environmental factors.</p>	<p>Audits conducted</p>	<p>6 mths</p>	<p>In-kind</p>	<p>Any issues identified and strategies to ameliorate enacted.</p>

3. Crime Prevention Action Plan

Target Offence: Breaches of Alcohol Free Zones.

Project: Education of public in regards to Alcohol Free Zones in Kiama LGA

Rationale: Lack of understanding of laws around Alcohol Free Zones resulting in conflict when police enforce the laws

Objective: Increase public knowledge, understanding and compliance with Alcohol Free Zone laws

Lead Agency & Partners: Kiama Council, NSW Police

Expected Outcome: Increased knowledge, understanding & compliance of Alcohol Free Zones laws amongst public

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
3.1 Develop/secure resources that help educate public on what Alcohol Free Zone laws are and how they are enforced	Resources being utilised	6 mths	In kind	Resources identified
3.2 Work with Council's Communications Team to develop a strategy to promote awareness & understanding around Alcohol Free Zones	Strategy implemented	12 mths	In kind	Strategy developed
3.3 Network & liaise with other community groups & other Councils in the region to share resources, understanding and strategies to address this issue	Network meetings attended and resources and ideas shared.	ongoing	nil	n/a

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3.4 Review current Alcohol Free Zones and potentially expand dependent on review findings	Review Conducted	12 mths	Nil	Review conducted
3.5 Advocate for increased police presence in LGA to contribute to education and enforcement	Increased police presence	ongoing	n/a	Increased police presence

4. Crime Prevention Action Plan

<u>Target Offence:</u>	Anti-social behaviour and offences committed shortly after leaving a licensed venue at closing time
<u>Project:</u>	Coordination of late night transport options
<u>Rationale:</u>	Patrons experiencing delays in getting home after leaving licensed venues are vulnerable to committing offences, or being assaulted by other patrons also waiting to secure transport home
<u>Objective:</u>	Reduce the number of patrons congregating in public space after leaving venues by improving coordination of late night transport options in order to encourage safe and efficient dispersal out of the CBD
<u>Lead Agency & Partners:</u>	Kiama Council, Kiama Liquor Accord, Transport operators in the Kiama region
<u>Expected Outcome:</u>	Increase in late night transport options

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
4.1 Liaise with Kiama Liquor Accord and ensure best utilisation of and/or increase in late night transport options	Reduced number of patrons having to wait long periods to secure transport home	12 mths	To be identified	Reduction in late night incidents in Kiama CBD
4.2 Licensed venues within CBD continue to have staggered lockout & closing times to assist with reducing the likelihood of large numbers of patrons requiring public transport all at once.	Venues continue staggered lockout and closing times	Ongoing	Nil	n/a

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<p>4.3 Liaise with Kiama Liquor Accord to identify opportunities to educate licensed venue patrons to better plan for getting home.</p>	<p>Education opportunities identified</p>	<p>12 mths</p>	<p>To be identified</p>	<p>Education plan developed and enacted.</p>
<p>4.4 Advocate for increased police presence in LGA, particularly around venue closing times.</p>	<p>Increased police presence</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Increased police presence</p>

5. Crime Prevention Action Plan

<u>Target Offence:</u>	Graffiti
<u>Project:</u>	Investigate suitable graffiti reduction & removal programs
<u>Rationale:</u>	Although Kiama LGA does not have a major issue with graffiti compared to some Councils, if not managed well, it could escalate.
<u>Objective:</u>	Manage and overall reduce the number of incidents of graffiti in the LGA
<u>Lead Agency & Partners:</u>	Kiama Council, Kiama residents
<u>Expected Outcome:</u>	Decrease in number of incidents of graffiti

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
5.1 Review Council current policies & procedures around graffiti in the LGA	Policies & procedures reviewed	6 mths	nil	Policies & procedures reviewed
5.2 Investigate other graffiti reduction & removal programs from other LGAs	Other council programs reviewed	6 mths	nil	Other council programs reviewed
5.3 Assess other relevant programs against Council's current processes for managing graffiti and update our policies & procedures where necessary	Assessment against Kiama Council policies & procedures completed	12 mths	Nil	Kiama Council policies & procedures updated where required
5.4 encourage residents to download and utilise "snap send solve" graffiti	Council receive reports of graffiti via Snap Send Solve	ongoing	nil	Council receive reports of graffiti via Snap Send

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reporting app that council has registered with.				Solve
5.5 Advocate for increased police presence in LGA as a deterrent against graffiti production.	Increased police presence	ongoing	n/a	Increased police presence