

Community Services

# Crime Prevention Plan 2018-2023



*Shoalhaven*  
City Council

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## **Message from the Mayor of Shoalhaven**

When it comes to crime prevention Shoalhaven City Council has a role to play as a collaborative partner. I am pleased to present the Crime Prevention Strategy 2018-2023. This five-year plan guides Council, and all those who work with Council to achieve the two points of focus for this period.

No one wants to live with feelings of fear or at risk of crime and reducing anti-social behaviour improves all of our lives. The collaborations in crime prevention can be from supporting applications for funding for Close Circuit Television (CCTV) to the physical planning of our environment. All actions are part of the bigger picture of improvements across the City.

Crime reporting indicates that we are on a pathway of reduction, but the two priority areas, are such that the data may only be telling us a small part of the story. Join with me in doing what you can to make our city safer. When it is safe for you to do so, call out bad behaviour and report issues to our hard working police. To do so helps our police to understand the spatial distribution of issues and were best to focus resources. In 2023 may we look back together and be proud of achieving all that we could in making our Shoalhaven a safer place to live, work and play.

## **1. Shoalhaven Community Profile**

The Shoalhaven City is located on the South Coast of New South Wales, 160 kilometres south of the Sydney CBD. The estimated population sits at 101,777 over approximately 4,531 square kilometres including substantial areas of national parks, state forests, bushland, beaches and lakes.

The original inhabitants of the Shoalhaven were the Wodi Wodi and Wandandian people.

Majority of the population is concentrated on the coastal fringes, in major centres and 49 surrounding villages. Shoalhaven City is a regional and growing residential and tourist area, it is the most visited Local Government Area (LGA) in NSW.

The Shoalhaven's beautiful natural environment plays a central role in the quality of life of the local community. The regions temperate climate, rich array of nature flora and fauna, many natural attractions, thriving commercial and retail sectors and abundance of raw materials make the Shoalhaven an appealing place to live, work and visit.

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), is a number, or series of 4 numbers, which describe the relative level of socio-economic advantage or disadvantage in an area. Advantage is defined in terms of access to material and social resources and ability to participate in society. Shoalhaven City SEIFA Index of Disadvantage measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of Census characteristics. A higher score (above 1000) on the index means a lower level of disadvantage. A lower score on the index means a higher level of disadvantage.

The SEIFA score for the Shoalhaven in 2011 was 955 and ranks 201 out of 564 in Local Government Areas (LGA'S) across Australia for disadvantage. This is reflected by the social issues in the Shoalhaven including homelessness and disadvantage.

Shoalhaven unemployment rate stands at 6.7% with 38,571 employed residents, with 34,909 local jobs occupied. The youth unemployment rate stands at 29% compared to 11% across NSW. There are currently 7,343 local businesses within the Shoalhaven area. There is limited transport within the Shoalhaven LGA especially in the outlying areas and villages.

## 2. Shoalhaven City Council's Vision Statement

We will work together in Shoalhaven to foster a safe and attractive community for people to live, work, stay and play; where sustainable growth, development and environmental protection are managed to provide a unique and relaxed lifestyle.



### **3. Crime Profile**

Increasingly, Local Governments are seen to be key players in the development and implementation of community level crime prevention programs. Across Australia, virtually all government crime prevention agencies include local government in the development and delivery of their respective crime prevention plans and strategies.

The Crime Prevention Division of the NSW Department of Justice and the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics has identified the following factors, which can lead to or predict criminality:

- Access to schooling and education
- Levels of employment and income
- Family background
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Personal opportunities and incentives for the commission of crime
- Gender
- Other environmental factors
- Peer relations
- Moral beliefs
- Risks and punishment
- Criminal history
- Socio economic issues

### **4. Aims of the Shoalhaven Crime Prevention Plan 2018 – 2023**

- Promote a strategic and holistic approach to the prevention of crime in the Shoalhaven.
- Identify priorities and strategies to minimize crime.
- Identify programs, activities and initiatives that lead to the community's safety and wellbeing.
- Enable Shoalhaven City Council to apply for funding through the NSW Department of Justice in order to implement the Crime Prevention Plan.

### **5. Identified Crime Priorities Areas**

Steal from retail and domestic violence have been identified by BOCSAR data and the NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven as the most problematic issues for the Shoalhaven LGA. They have, therefore been nominated as the priority focus areas for the 2018-2023 Shoalhaven Crime Prevention Plan. This Plan also considers public perceptions of safety within the community as identified through community consultation.

## **6. Priority 1: Steal from Retail**

Stealing from retail stores is broadly defined as the ‘theft of goods for sale, by avoiding payment for those goods’. Although generally believed to be a common and costly crime, the actual extent of retail theft (commonly known as shoplifting) is unknown, largely due to under-reporting and the inaccuracy of retail stock systems. Retail theft remains a significant problem within the Shoalhaven LGA, particularly in the Nowra CBD.

### **6.1 Crime Trends**

The BOCSAR LGA Ranking Tool showed there were 355 incidents in the Shoalhaven of Steal from Retail in the 2015/16 and 229 incidents in 2016/17. Steal from Retail in the Shoalhaven is recorded as down 25.9% in the past quarter due to the proactive work by local police. A number of operations conducted by Police resulted in a significant number of retail theft arrests. The Southern Region as a whole also recorded downward trends of 32.9% in steal from retail.

### **6.2 State Ranking**

The BOCSAR LGA Ranking Tool showed the Shoalhaven was ranked the 44 out of 134 documented LGA’s for retail theft in NSW in 2016. A rate of 293.6 per 100,000 population.

### **6.3 Comparison Analysis**

Ranking BOCSAR – 2016

Shellharbour LGA: 51

Kiama LGA: 119

Wollongong LGA: 23

Wingecarribee LGA: 76

In addition to the above local statistics the state average of retail theft is up by 4.7%. Wollongong, and neighboring LGA’s have also had an increase in retail theft over the past 5 years where the Shoalhaven has a reduced rate of 8.5%.

### **6.4 Location Hotspots**

The Hotspot Map (2016) from the BOCSAR indicated that the highest rates for Steal from Retail offences were in:

- Nowra CBD
- Nowra Stockland
- Sanctuary Point
- Huskisson
- Berry



The NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven data for Steal from Retail for the period from Oct 2016 to Oct 2017 showed that there were a total of 337 incidents. Of these incidents:

- 81% of thefts occurred in retail stores & 18% at licensed premises.
- 69.2% occurred on weekdays & 30.8% on weekends

## **6.5 Offences by Person**

BOCSAR statistics for Persons of Interest (POIs) for Steal from Retail offences are:

- 68.3% were males and 31.7% were females
- 11.9% were aged between 10-17 years and 88.1% were over 18 years of age.

## **6.6 Capacity**

Effective Crime Prevention involves strong and committed leadership at all levels with collaboration between multiple stakeholders to address the wide - ranging causes of this crime, drawing upon the necessary skills, expertise, resources and responsibilities to address specific crime areas within the region.

Shoalhaven City Council has a strong relationship with the NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven. Shoalhaven City Council's designated Community Development Officer maintains regular weekly contact with the NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven discussing trends, hotspots and various community activities that can decrease criminal activity.

Representatives from the NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven and the community believe the offences in Steal from Retail has a direct correlation to the increase of the availability of the drug ICE in the area and homelessness.

Shoalhaven Council will work in partnership with Police, retailers and the local business community to implement strategies to address the issue of retail theft.

## **7. Priority 2: Domestic Violence**

Domestic and Family Violence refers to physical, psychological and other harm committed by a perpetrator against somebody they are in an intimate or domestic relationship with.

More than two decades of international research shows that infants, children and adolescents experience serious negative psychological, emotional, social and developmental impacts to their wellbeing from the traumatic experience and exposure to domestic and family violence.

The NSW Government Domestic & Family Violence (DFV) Reforms set a new strategic direction for addressing domestic and family violence in NSW by strengthening the approach to domestic and family violence prevention, improving the response to domestic and family violence, changing the way service providers deliver services to victims, and delivering programs and services that hold perpetrators accountable and reduce re-offending.

In November 2016 the NSW Government rolled out the Safer Pathways reforms in the Shoalhaven. The theme of these reforms is: Safer Pathways - It Stops Here: Standing Together to End Domestic & Family Violence in NSW. Individuals, people and families experiencing domestic and family violence will now receive a tailored, multi-agency approach. Safety Action Meetings (SAMS) have been implemented in the Shoalhaven fortnightly, providing a holistic approach from relevant key agencies eg: Family and Community Services, Housing, Police, Health, Corrective Services and Education. Shoalhaven Council will work in collaboration with NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven, all agencies and the community to assist in the implementation of the Safer Pathways Reforms.

### **7.1 Crime Trends**

The BOCSAR LGA Ranking Tool showed that in 2015/16 there were 416 incidents of domestic violence assaults. In 2016/17 there were 361 incidents showing a decrease of 55 incidents. There is no statistical evidence available for other domestic violence offences including intimidation, stalking, psychological abuse, financial abuse and malicious damage.

The statistics above show a slight decrease in domestic violence offences in 2016/17 within the Shoalhaven, this is a move in the right direction.

### **7.2 State Ranking**

The BOCSAR LGA Ranking Tool showed that, for domestic Violence offences in 2016 the Shoalhaven LGA was ranked 71 with 358 per 100,000 population. Over the past 3 years the Shoalhaven LGA has seen an incremental decrease in Domestic Violence offences. The Shoalhaven City Council continues to have concerns as the number of domestic violence offences are still unacceptable. These numbers need to be substantially decreased to ensure positive growth within the Shoalhaven and continued community safety.

### **7.3 Comparative Analysis**

Rankings BOCSAR NSW – 2016

Domestic Violence Assaults

Shoalhaven LGA: 56  
Shellharbour LGA: 69  
Kiama LGA: 115  
Wollongong LGA: 59  
Wingecarribee LGA: 90

Breach of Apprehended Violence Orders (AVO's)

Shoalhaven LGA: 49  
Shellharbour LGA: 54  
Kiama LGA: 113  
Wollongong LGA: 62  
Wingecarribee LGA: 91

### **7.4 Location Hotspots**

- Nowra
- Sanctuary Point
- Bomaderry
- Sussex Inlet
- Worrigeer
- Shoalhaven Heads
- Huskisson
- Ulladulla

The NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven data for Domestic Violence Assaults for the period from September 2016 to September 2017 showed that there were a total of 355 incident down from 391 the previous year.

Of these incidents:

- 88% occurred in the residential home
- 12% occurred in recreational spaces
- 41.8% of incidents were alcohol related

## 7.5: Offences by Person

BOCSAR statistics for Persons of Interest (POIs) showed that:

- 83.7% were male and 16.3% were female.
- 6.7% of offenders were aged between 10 & 17 years
- 93.3% were 18 years and over
- Majority of domestic assaults occur on the weekends as opposed to during the week. December and January being the highest in offences.

## 7.6: Capacity

Shoalhaven City Council has a strong and proactive Community Development Team. The designated Community Development Officer will continue to develop a strong connection with NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven, Nowra Domestic Violence Committee and the White Ribbon Committee.

Together they will work in collaboration, discussing trends and identifying issues in relation to domestic and family violence within the Shoalhaven community. Working in partnership with multiple stakeholders to make a collective impact, to support and implement strategies and community activities that will educate and support the community.

This unity will give the Shoalhaven City Council a strong foundation to see substantial change and a decrease in the occurrence of domestic and family violence within the community.

## 8. Shoalhaven Crime Prevention Programs/Strategies

- **CCTV** - Introduction of CCTV and Awareness Campaigns in retail areas have proven to have an immediate impact on reducing shoplifting rates. Resulting in both positive prevention measures and conviction rates.
- **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design - CPTED**  
CPTED is a crime prevention strategy that focuses on the design, planning and structure of a property. CPTED is widely recognized as an important crime prevention tool minimizing the risk and opportunity for Retail theft.
- **White Ribbon Campaign**  
White Ribbon Campaigns are a global movement active in over 60 countries. This campaign centers on gender violence prevention which will include educating and mentoring men and the community on issues such as violence and gender equality. The campaign will bring together key agencies to address this issue within the Shoalhaven.
- **Neighbor Day**  
Neighbour Day is Australia's annual celebration of community, held on the last Sunday in March each year, Neighbour Day encourages people to connect with those who live in their neighbourhood to create a safer, healthier and more understanding community. Strengthening communities and building better relationships with those around us.

- **Community Safety Booklet**  
This resource booklet will provide the community with a wide range of helpful safety tips for the family, home, business and property. In addition to this there will be a list of useful contact numbers around safety and local services.
- **Other Partnerships, Programs, Activities & Events**  
Shoalhaven Council will partner with a number of agencies and community organisations to implement a number of programs and strategies. Providing the Shoalhaven community with a holistic approach to crime prevention.

## Program 1: Closed Circuit Television – CCTV

<b>Target Offence:</b>	Steal from Retail			
<b>Project:</b>	Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) installations and expansions			
<b>Rationale:</b>	Create a sense of security in the CBD and other areas			
<b>Objective:</b>	Decrease Steal from Retail and other criminal/anti-social behaviour.			
<b>Lead Agency &amp; Partners:</b>	Shoalhaven City Council, NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven and Shoalhaven Business Chambers.			
<b>Expected Outcome:</b>	Better surveillance, decrease criminal activity and anti-social behaviour			
Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding Required	Milestones
Installation and expansion of CCTV in CBD, Berry St and Egan's Lane	Decrease in crime statistics	3 years	\$850,000	Active cameras and fibre installed by June 30 2020.
Install CCTV in Sanctuary Point in and around Skate Park	CCTV installed Decrease in crime statistics	3 years	\$250,000	Installed by June 30 2020
Install cameras on Nowra Bridge	CCTV installed Decrease in crime statistics	3 years	\$100,000	Fibre and cameras installed by June 30 2020
Fibre installation from Shoalhaven City Council administration building to NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven.	Fibre installed	3 years	\$300,000	Fibre installed by June 30 2020
Portable CCTV trailers	Portable CCTV units obtained	3 years	\$35,000	Portable units obtained by June 30 2020

	Number of deployments of cameras			
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\*Funding for CCTV is dependent on successful Commonwealth grant applications\*

## Program 2: Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Safer By Design

<b>Target Offence:</b>	Steal from Retail
<b>Project:</b>	Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Training – provided by NSW Police
<b>Rationale:</b>	Safety Audit Training - Council Community Development Team, Police and Local Business's
<b>Objective:</b>	Decrease Steal from Retail, improve image of retail centres, enhance customer service & safety through Crime Prevention and Environmental Design
<b>Lead Agency &amp; Partners:</b>	Shoalhaven City Council, NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven, Local Businesses.
<b>Expected Outcome:</b>	Improved safety and security systems for business's resulting in a decrease in Retail Theft & Anti-Social Behaviour within the community.

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required*	Milestones
Organise proposed training through NSW police for 20 participants	Training dates obtained	March 2018	Nil	20 participants from Shoalhaven agencies and business educated in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.
EOI to CDT, Police and Business's re: attendance at training	EOI returned	April 2018		Engaging the community to decide upon appropriate solution
Attendance of 20 participants at 3 day training – obtaining competency in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design	20 participants accredited to perform safety audits on business's and venues 20 participants have a sound knowledge of what about a location or	Dec 2018	\$30,000  Accommodation (if required)	Engaging the community to decide upon appropriate solutions. All participants will be able to complete comprehensive safety audits. Relationship enhancement

	place that put people at risk or gives the opportunity to commit crime.			between community and agencies.  Decrease of criminal activity and anti-social behaviour within the Shoalhaven.
Shoalhaven Police Crime Prevention Officer and Delegated Community Development Officer – liaise with the business community	Police and Council attend CBD's weekly together to liaise with retail stores and business owners.		NIL	Enhance relationships in the business community and identify risks.  Decrease retail theft and anti-social behaviour.
Safety Audits to be completed in majority of high risk stores within the Nowra CBD, Berry, Sanctuary Point, Huskisson & Ulladulla.	Shopkeepers engaged in strategies to rectify safety & crime concerns.		\$10,000	Majority of Shoalhaven Shops at risk participating in the program and strategies to identify risks & decrease crime and anti-social behaviour.

\*Funding for projects subject to available grants

### Program 3: White Ribbon Awareness Campaign

<b>Target Offence:</b>	Domestic Violence			
<b>Project:</b>	Implement Crime Prevention Strategies, such as community education, information distribution and promotion, to reduce the incidence of domestic violence.			
<b>Rationale:</b>	Research suggests that the implementation of Crime Prevention Strategies in communities will educate and empower the community			
<b>Objective:</b>	To educate the community and increase awareness of domestic and family violence within the Shoalhaven community.			
<b>Lead Agency &amp; Partners:</b>	Shoalhaven City Council, NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven, SCAT, NSW Police-Regional Domestic Violence Coordinator, Nowra Domestic Violence Committee, Waminda and SAHSSI.			
<b>Expected Outcome:</b>	Ensuring the community have access to information that it is readily available to them. Ensuring that all service providers are working together effectively to ensure optimum safety for families.			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>Time Frames</b>	<b>Funding required</b>	<b>Milestones</b>
Shoalhaven City Council to become a White Ribbon Accredited Workplace	Shoalhaven City Council taking active steps to prevent and respond to violence against women	2 years	\$20,000	White Ribbon Accredited Workplace.
Shoalhaven City Council to work with all the above agencies to focus on the dissemination of Domestic Violence information throughout the Shoalhaven in a clear and concise manner	The visual and continual presence of information throughout the Shoalhaven  Purchase resources to disseminate throughout the community and services	6 months - 5 years	\$10,000	Ensure that all areas of the Shoalhaven have current, relevant and Community driven information about domestic violence, how to report it and how to seek help.
Delegated Community Development Officer to attend DV	Attendance at monthly meeting	Ongoing	Nil	Enhance relationships and partnerships within the community.



Committee meetings				
Delegated Community Development Officer to become an active member of the White Ribbon Committee	Attendance at meetings-participate/organise community events	Ongoing	Nil	As Above
Implement White Ribbon Steel Gobotech filter to light up the SEC for the 16 days of Activism and White Ribbon Day	Purchase filter - SEC staff to install at relevant time	Completed 2017 Annually /Ongoing	\$70.00	Visual Aid to increase community education
With DV Committee to assist and support an annual Shoalhaven campaign for Domestic Violence Awareness & Respect	White Ribbon working party in consultation with the Nowra DV committee and Tourism to design a Banner & Bumper Stickers "Shoalhaven Say's Yes to Respect"	Annually 25/11-10/12 Throughout the 16 days of Activism	\$2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Banners installed throughout the Shoalhaven, Berry to Burrill Lake throughout the 16 days.</li> <li>Banners to be installed on two council structures:</li> <li>Jane Street Bridge</li> <li>Ulladulla Community Centre</li> </ul>
Shoalhaven Council to hold a White Ribbon Morning Tea Event each year	Invites to all Community organisations, Schools & Business's. Expand invites to Community through media, SCR & Radio  Guest Speakers & resources	Annual event – White Ribbon Day – 25/11  Annually	\$3,000  \$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A whole of community event resulting in awareness and education for the community on Domestic Violence.</li> <li>Become a well-attended annual community event, hosted by Council in conjunction and partnership with the DV &amp; White Ribbon committee.</li> </ul>

\*Funding for projects subject to available grants\*

## Program 4: Neighbour Day

<b>Target Offence:</b>	Domestic Violence			
<b>Project:</b>	Neighbour Day. An annual Shoalhaven wide campaign. This campaign will be an effective tool for pulling residents/neighbours of the Shoalhaven together. It has the capacity to break down Community barriers and allow a bond of trust to form within a Neighbourhood.			
<b>Rationale:</b>	To break down barriers that create isolation in the Community.			
<b>Objective:</b>	Instituting Neighbour Day as an annual event in the Shoalhaven. Residents will have the tools to step up and build a better Neighbourhood.			
<b>Lead Agency &amp; Partners:</b>	Shoalhaven City Council, NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven, SCAT, Shoalhaven Community, Youth Advisory Committee and Agencies.			
<b>Expected Outcome:</b>	A better informed and more aware Community that is more likely to care and protect each other.			
Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding Required	Milestones
Last Sunday of March	Database of various Community events	12 Months	\$2,000	Have 6 Neighbourhoods by 2018
Neighbours get together to celebrate Community	Map of "Neighbourhoods" will be developed and utilised for future growth of Pride and CCB's	12-24 Months	\$5,000	Have 20 Neighbourhoods
BBQ's, Picnics, Afternoon tea...Community's choice		24-48 Months	\$5,000	Have 50 Neighbourhoods
		48-60 Months	\$5,000	All of Shoalhaven

\*Funding for projects subject to available grants\*

## Program 5: Community Safety Booklet

<b>Target Offence:</b>	Retail Theft & Domestic Violence			
<b>Project:</b>	Community Safety Booklet			
<b>Rationale:</b>	Create a Community Safety Resource			
<b>Objective:</b>	Providing the community with a safety resource tool including safety tips, information and contact details.			
<b>Lead Agency &amp; Partners:</b>	Shoalhaven City Council, NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven.			
<b>Expected Outcome:</b>	An informed and aware Community that takes ownership and responsibility for their safety.			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>Time Frames</b>	<b>Funding Required</b>	<b>Milestones</b>
Review and Update the Community Safety Booklet	Detailed community resource including useful information & contacts	12-24 months	\$2,500	
Dissemination of Community Safety Booklet	Resource information made available to businesses and agencies	12-24 months		Community have access to resource
Hard copy	Adequate copies printed for community and agencies			Resource printed
Online version	Online			Shoalhaven Council Website

## **9. The Safer Community Action Team (SCAT)**

Comprising of: Shoalhaven Council, Government & Non-Government Agencies and Community Members.

The aim of this team is to:

- Create a platform for a Safe, Healthy and Connected Community
- Facilitate strategies identified in the Crime Prevention Plan
- Enhance partnerships between agencies and the community
- Increase Community Safety
- Reduce anti-social behavior
- Reduce crime and fear in the Shoalhaven
- Meet quarterly

## **10. Stakeholders**

While it is recognised that Local Councils are well placed to lead community crime prevention initiatives, it is through a collaborative approach that the most successful crime prevention outcomes are achieved. The development of effective working relationships is vital in the development, implementation and evaluation of crime prevention planning. There is not one individual agency or organisation that is responsible for all elements involved. Stakeholders could include, but are not limited to, as dot pointed below

- NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven
- Anglicare
- NSW Health
- Police Aboriginal Consultative committee (PACC)
- FACs
- Aboriginal Medical Centre
- Southern Cross Housing
- Youth Services
- Department of Education
- TAFE NSW
- HMAS Albatross
- Advisory Groups
- SAHSSI
- Community Consultative Bodies
- Waminda
- Shoalhaven Business Chambers
- Community Pride Groups – all Villages
- Various Interagency groups
- Tourism Groups
- Council committees
- Nowra DV Committee

## **11. Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **11.1 Monitoring**

Shoalhaven City Council will be the lead agency in overseeing the monitoring and evaluation of the Crime Prevention Plan. Shoalhaven City Council's designated Community Development Officer will be responsible for the delivery of the Crime Prevention Plan. Project partners will be invited to participate and a commitment to the Crime Prevention Plan will be obtained before particular tasks are assigned to the participating partners.

The performance measures will be used to monitor the progress of the strategies, the number of safety audits carried out and actions to be undertaken. For example, the number of Community members seeking information on crime prevention.

Commitments from various organisations, agencies and the community to support the implementation of the Plan will also be a measure of performance. The evaluation of other statistical data will be collected, analysed and used additionally as performance measures.

The time frames will consist of 6-18 month time spans to allow the development of projects and the commencement of operating various tasks. Partnering agencies will be assigned tasks and responsibilities in line with the Crime Prevention Plan.

### **11.2 Evaluation and Data Collection**

The data collected will be analysed and will include BOCSAR statistics indicating our rank in the State and comparing this to our neighbouring LGA's. This will alert us to the effectiveness of this Plan in reducing crime within the Shoalhaven. Shoalhaven City Council will also be able to utilise the statistics from our NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven. These statistics will be utilised for an 'on the ground' look of what is actually happening. Weekly contact with the NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven will give us a real time look of what is happening in the Shoalhaven.

Shoalhaven City Council will also evaluate Community members' perception of safety via Council's Community satisfaction survey.

In the event that another activity is seen to impact on strategies developed in the Crime Prevention Plan, actions will be taken to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy or to change the strategy under consultation.

## 12. Capacity Shoalhaven

Local Governments are increasingly seen to be a key player in the development and implementation of community level crime prevention programs. Across Australia, virtually all government crime prevention agencies include local government in the development and delivery of their respective crime prevention strategies.

For a number of years the Shoalhaven City Council has been actively involved in working with organisations and agencies within the Shoalhaven. By connecting communities through Community Consultative Bodies, NSW Police Southern Region Shoalhaven, Industry and Business to increase community safety. To reduce anti-social behavior, crime and fear of crime in the Shoalhaven Local Government Area. Therefore, it is essential that the Shoalhaven City Council plays an active role in working with the aforementioned parties to investigate the nature of crime in the area and respond to these issues by developing local strategies and programs.

As evidenced through past experience with the development of crime prevention plans, the Shoalhaven City Council has the capacity to act as the lead agency in the development of the 2018-2023 Crime Prevention Plan. The Shoalhaven City Council seeks to promote a holistic approach by involving all sectors of the community through partnerships to devise and implement an effective Crime Prevention Plan.

Shoalhaven City Council will prioritise:

- CCTV upgrade and expansions
- CPTED: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Domestic Violence education and resources
- Community Engagement and Neighbor Day
- Community Safety Booklet

This will include budgeting for programs and seeking support from stakeholders for their contribution to implement the Crime Prevention Plan. The Implementation of these programs/strategies will be driven by the designated Community Development Officer and further supported by the Shoalhaven City Council.

Shoalhaven City Council has the capacity to implement a number of the crime prevention strategies without additional funding, although this may reduce the reach of our programs/strategies. Examples of program/strategy implementation without additional funding:

- A finite amount of Safety Audits for Business areas.
- Shoalhaven City Council Community Development Team to spend additional time in the community to enhance community connections and relationships.

### **13. Situational Analysis**

By utilising CPTED qualifications, the Community Development Team is able to analyse crime hotspots and issue detailed safety audits to Businesses and local government assets. Safety Audits will be available to retailers to focus on shop front orientation and other visual tools and resources, which will assist in hardening the target.

In addition, an increase in Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems across the Shoalhaven targeting crime hotspots. CCTV presence will be increased in the crime hot spots; Nowra CBD, East Nowra, Bomaderry, Sanctuary Point and Huskisson.

East Nowra Shops has previously been audited and requires an overhaul of the general appearance and environment.

The installation of directional signage, such as guidance maps, in the CBD to assist locals and tourists with directions to certain locations. Signage for the annual White Ribbon Campaign throughout the Shoalhaven. This will provide awareness and the message that the Shoalhaven will not tolerate Domestic Violence.

Signage and media throughout the Shoalhaven for the annual Neighbour Day Campaign. The Neighbour Day Campaign is held in March each year and is used as a Shoalhaven wide communication tool. Focusing on the principles of the Neighbourhood Watch Program, Neighbour Day brings residents out of their homes and invites them to know their neighbors and break down barriers.

Engaging a place making approach to propagate familiarity in the community to increase community cohesiveness and connectedness. These programs will enable each community to gain guidance and support resulting in safe, healthy and connected neighborhoods.

Creating a direct link for residents and neighborhoods to the Community Development Unit and officers has the ability to connect the community and residents. This connection falls directly in line with the Connecting Communities model.

Connecting Communities will be encompassed through all programs within the Community Development Unit. Working directly with and for the Community will be beneficial, and will see a significant decrease in criminal and anti-social behavior.

## 14. REFERENCES

Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) NSW  
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