

**DUBBO
CRIME PREVENTION PLAN
2011-2014**

Developed by: Dubbo City Council
In partnership with: NSW Police

Introduction

The following document outlines the Dubbo City Crime Prevention Plan 2011-2014. This plan aims to address issues linked to community safety and crime issues in the Dubbo Local Government Area (LGA) and to assist to create a safer environment for those who reside in, work in or visit Dubbo.

There is a growing recognition that creating safer communities relies on both traditional law enforcement as well as a whole of government and community approach to the issue of crime.

This approach recognizes that most of the work of the police and the criminal justice agencies is reactive, that is, they deal with the crime after the event. It acknowledges that if we want to prevent crime and thereby reduce its impact on the community, we have to intervene before it is committed.

Research in Australia and overseas now identifies that community safety and crime prevention requires a holistic approach and cooperative efforts at the local level and cannot be the sole preserve of one agency. The community as a whole including council, government and non-government service providers, local business and residents must work in partnership to assist in preventing crime.

The following document will outline:

- The aims and objectives of the Dubbo Crime Prevention Plan 2011-2014
- The consultations that have taken place in order to develop the plan
- Current approaches to Crime Prevention
- Overview of the outcomes of the Crime Prevention Plan 2008-2011
- The profile of the population
- A crime profile for Dubbo
- Priorities to be addressed within the 2011-14 plan
- Strategies for addressing priority issues
- Evaluation procedures

The Dubbo Crime Prevention Plan provides the foundation for submissions to obtain Crime Prevention Funding.

Aims

The overall aim of the Dubbo Crime Prevention plan is to assist to create a safe environment for those who reside in, work in, or visit Dubbo. The objectives of the plan are to:

- Reducing levels of community concern and perceptions about crime;
- Recognition of the social factors affecting persons who commit crime;
- Targeting the causes of crime;
- Encouraging the acceptance that crime is a matter for the whole community;
- Encouraging a whole of community crime prevention awareness;
- Ensuring that relevant services and agencies work together effectively to reduce the social problems causing crime;
- Developing and implementing specific crime prevention initiatives; and
- Effectively informing and consulting the community regarding crime and other safety issues.

Process

When developing the Dubbo Crime Prevention plan a number of methods were utilised to identify key areas to be addressed within the plan. These include:-

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- Regular local Crime Prevention Partnership meetings
 - Analysis of recent research in approaches to crime prevention
 - Analysis of crime statistics from the Dubbo LGA which have been sourced from the Bureau for Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
 - Consultation with NSW Police crime prevention officers and intelligence analyst.

Crime Prevention

As stated above, in recent times there has been increased attention given to crime prevention by analysing factors which lead to people committing crimes before they occur and attempting to intervene to prevent the crime from occurring in the first place.

The Crime Prevention Division of the NSW Attorney General's Department 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 commission of crime
- Age
- Other environmental factors
- Peer relations
- Moral beliefs
- Risks and punishment
- Criminal history

Crime Prevention approaches can be categorised into three categories:

Situational Crime Prevention- seeks to change the environment to make it harder to commit a crime or to increase the risk so that the offender will not commit a crime because the risk of being detected or caught is too high. A major component of this approach is covered under Crime Prevention through environmental design.

Social Crime Prevention: seeks to strengthen communities and change social conditions.

Developmental Crime Prevention: seeks to intervene at critical stages in individuals' and groups' lives to reduce risk factors which may cause a person or group to commit a crime; or to increase protective factors which may prevent a group or individual from committing a crime.

This plan seeks to adopt a combination of all three approaches.

Overview of the Previous Crime Prevention Plan

The first Crime Prevention plan for Dubbo was developed in 2003. The plan was wide-ranging with strategies across five key areas including:

- Environmental Design
- Domestic Violence
- Youth
- Alcohol and Drugs
- Education and Employment.

At the time this plan was developed Crime Prevention was a relatively new function for local government, however through some of the actions from the plan the concept of crime prevention was introduced across the Dubbo local government area.

In 2008 the second Crime Prevention plan was developed which concentrated on two key areas, these areas were crimes that either had stayed at a high rate for a prolonged period or had deteriorated to be seen as a high priority. These two key areas were

- Steal from motor vehicle
- Domestic violence

Dubbo Community Profile

General

Dubbo City Council covers an area of 3 321 square kilometres and Dubbo, and as a Regional Centre, services a population in excess of 130 000 people.

Population

Dubbo's population by the 2006 Census was 37 950, Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates in March 2011 a population of 41 736.

Age profile

The population is characterised by percentage composition of above the NSW average in the 0-17 year's age range and below from 17 years onwards, indicating a relatively young community. The age population for Aboriginal people in Dubbo is significantly lower than the total population.

However, since the 2001 Census there has been significant increase in the older population with the largest changes in age structure in the age groups 50-59 (+477), 60-69 (+342), 70-84 (+392) and a drop in 24-34 (-545).

Population growth

The city of Dubbo has developed as one of the fastest growing inland centres of New South Wales.

From 1971 to 1996 the growth was 8.7%, and from 2001 to 2006 growth was 5.4% with an average of 1.09%. The most rapid growth period was 1976 to 1981 – 22.6%.

Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CALD)

The percentage of residence born in other countries is low (less than 4.9% with NSW average of 23.8%) and the percentage born in non-English speaking countries is only 2.5%. This percentage is substantially lower than the state average percentage of 16.8%.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The percentage of the population, which is Aboriginal, is recorded at 10.3% (NSW population average 2.1%) but anecdotal evidence from the community would suggest a higher figure.

In Dubbo's Aboriginal community 14% were aged 0–4 years, 15% were aged 5–9 years and 14% were aged 10–14 years, together making up 43% of Aboriginal residents. 21% of non-Aboriginal residents were of these ages.

Crime Profile

The crime profile provides an analysis of recorded crime for offences in the Dubbo Local Government Area (LGA). This data has been used to help identify key priorities to be addressed within the plan. The data will also be used as a base line to monitor and evaluate the impact of the plan's strategies on specific crime categories.

Recorded Crime Statistics and Ranking

The following table identifies Dubbo's position in the top 50 areas in NSW for that particular crime in 2008 and 2009.

BOCSAR DATA	2008	2008	2009	2009
Crime	No. offences recorded	Ranking	No. offences recorded	Ranking
Assaults – not DV related	407	15	383	14
Assaults – DV related	283	12	260	19
Sexual offences	109	15	114	7
Robbery	20	41	20	34
Steal from person	37	35	20	67
Steal from Motor Vehicle	452	16	499	5
Motor vehicle theft	180	17	150	35
Break and enter dwelling	361	21	437	15
Break and enter – non dwelling	202	40	136	73
Malicious damage to property	1090	13	842	28

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)

The above tables show that Dubbo ranked in the top 20 in New South Wales two years running for the following offences:

- Assaults – not DV related
- Assaults – DV related
- Steal from Motor Vehicle
- Sexual offences

Small decreases were identified in the number of recorded offences for Assaults – DV related however this remains reasonably stable as can be seen in the following section on identified trends.

The area of concern is that although Steal from Motor Vehicle was targeted in the 2008-2011 Crime Prevention Plan the number of offences has increased, it is still ranked as number 5 in NSW.

Crime Trends

Two Year Trends

The following table outlines annual totals and the 24-month trend for the Dubbo LGA from October 2008 to September 2010

Offence	Oct 2008 to Sept 2009	Oct 2009 to Sept 2010	24 month trend	Annual % change
Assault- not DV related	380	399	Stable	**
Assault – DV related	288	298	Stable	**
Sexual Assault	44	41	Stable	**
Robbery without weapon	12	13	Stable	**
Robbery with firearm	1	1	Stable	**
Robbery with weapon	8	7	Stable	**
Break and enter- dwelling	417	457	Stable	+9.6%
Break and enter – not dwelling	159	98	Down	-38.40%
Motor Vehicle theft	145	148	Stable	**
Steal from Motor Vehicle	483	491	Stable	**
Steal from retail store	168	175	Stable	+4.2%
Steal from dwelling	181	196	Stable	+8.3%
Steal from person	27	31	Stable	**
Malicious damage to property	907	915	Stable	**

** No annual percentage change is given if the trend is stable or if a trend has not been calculated.

Source: BOCSAR reference number is: 2011-342459-12.

The above table shows that crime rates over the last two years have remained relatively stable in Dubbo with an increase in four offence areas:

- Break and enter dwelling
- Break and Enter non-dwelling
- Motor Vehicle theft
- Steal from retail store.

Five Year Trends

Crime Trends Tool

Table 1. Recorded incidents of selected offences in the Dubbo Local Government Area

Annual Totals and 60 month trend from October 2005 to September 2010

Offence	Oct 2005 to Sept 2006	Oct 2006 to Sept 2007	Oct 2007 to Sept 2008	Oct 2008 to Sept 2009	Oct 2009 to Sept 2010	Trend	Percentage Change
Assault - domestic violence related	313	320	268	288	298	Stable	-4.8%
Assault - non-domestic violence related	446	405	409	380	399	Stable	**
Sexual assault	65	27	45	44	41	Stable	-36.9%
Robbery without a weapon	23	21	18	12	13	Stable	-43.5%
Robbery with a firearm	1	1	0	1	1	Stable	**
Robbery with a weapon not a firearm	7	8	5	8	7	Stable	**
Break and enter - dwelling	531	414	442	417	457	Stable	**
Break and enter - non-dwelling	366	210	193	159	98	Down	-28.10%
Motor vehicle theft	344	193	187	145	148	Down	-19.00%
Steal from motor vehicle	868	382	407	483	491	Stable	-43.4%
Steal from retail store	164	137	173	168	175	Stable	**
Steal from dwelling	262	236	248	181	196	Down	-7.00%
Steal from person	52	32	36	27	31	Down	-12.10%
Malicious damage to property	1304	1077	1117	907	915	Down	-8.50%

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research / Reference number 2011-342448-3

The above table shows that over a five year period the following offences have:-

- Assault - Not DV related; decreased by 10.5%.
- Assault - DV related; decreased by 4.8%.
- Steal from motor vehicle; decreased by 43.4%.
- Steal from retail store; increased by 6.7%.

There has been a decreasing trend in incidence of the following offences:

- Break and enter non-dwelling
- Motor vehicle theft
- Steal from person

Overall there has been a steady reduction in most areas of crime over the last five years.

Key Priority Areas

Using the crime statistics and the information gathered through consultations two key priority areas have been identified in the 2011 - 2014 Crime Prevention Plan. These include:

Priority: Malicious Damage to property

Objective: To reduce the incidence of Malicious damage in the Dubbo Local Government Area

Priority: Theft from motor Vehicle

Objective: To reduce the incidence of theft from motor vehicles in the Dubbo LGA

Following is a discussion about the specific priorities identified in the plan.

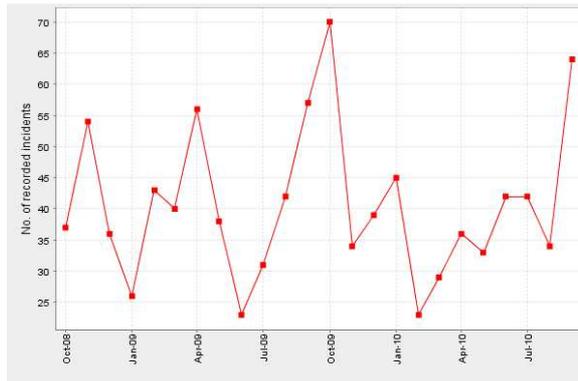
1. Theft from Motor Vehicle

In 2009 there were 499 incidents reported in the Dubbo LGA and Dubbo was ranked 5 out of the top 50 LGAs as set by BOCSAR for steal from motor vehicle offences.

The following graphs show the trends for theft from motor vehicle in Dubbo LGA over the last two years, five years and ten years

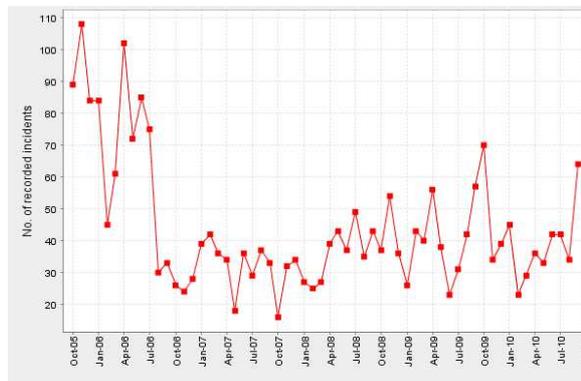
October 2008 to September 2010 Steal from motor vehicle, Dubbo Local Government Area

No statistically significant upward or downward trend over the 24 month period.



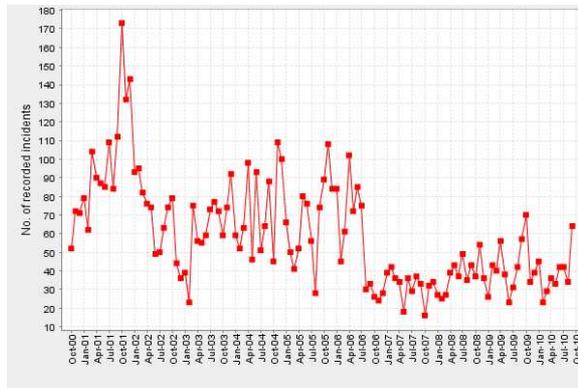
October 2005 to September 2010 Steal from motor vehicle, Dubbo Local Government Area

A decrease of 43.6% over the 60 month period.



October 2000 to September 2010 Steal from motor vehicle, Dubbo Local Government Area

Statistically significant downward trend over the 120 month period.
The average annual percentage change was: -7.7%



Reports from the Dubbo Local Area Command conclude the following about steal from motor vehicle offences:

- Preliminary 2010 statistics from the Dubbo Local Area Command are leaning towards Saturdays being a day where spikes in theft from motor vehicle offences take place.
- Statistical data shows that there is a degree of repeat victimization for several businesses, organizations and individuals.
- The most common method of stealing from a motor vehicle is to smash a window to gain entry.
- Common hotspots that have been targeted in the last twelve months have been Caravan Parks and Motels with victims being mainly visitors to Dubbo which in turn gives a bad reputation to our City with tourists.
- Other hotspots that have been identified are industrial areas targeting expensive electrical equipment such as GPS systems and UHF Radios. It has also been noted that trades peoples' utilities have also been a target with expensive electrical tools and equipment being stolen.

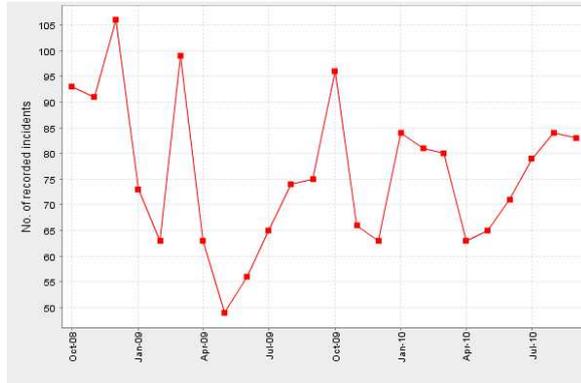
2. Malicious Damage to Property

In 2009 there were 915 incidents reported in the Dubbo LGA and Dubbo was ranked 28 out of the top 50 LGA's as set by BOCSAR for malicious damage to property.

The following graphs show the trends for malicious damage to property in Dubbo LGA over the last two years, five years and ten years

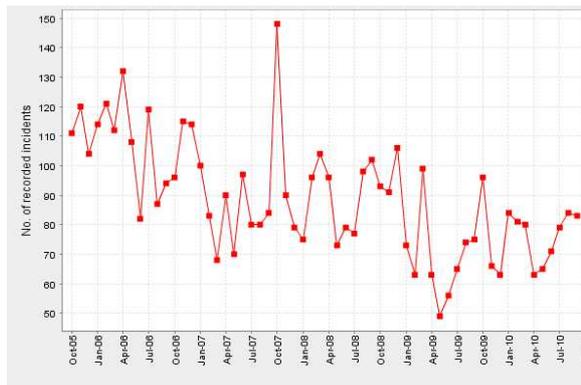
October 2008 to September 2010 Malicious damage to property, Dubbo Local Government Area

No statistically significant upward or downward trend over the 24 month period.



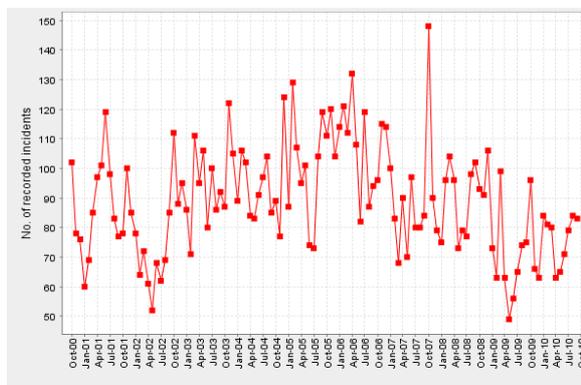
October 2005 to September 2010 Malicious damage to property, Dubbo Local Government Area

Statistically significant downward trend over the 60 month period.
The average annual percentage change was: -5.97%



October 2000 to September 2010 Malicious damage to property, Dubbo Local Government Area

No statistically significant upward or downward trend over the 120 month period.



Reports from the Dubbo Local Area Command also conclude the following about Malicious Damage to property:-

- Malicious damage to property tends to peak between Friday and Monday.
- Statistical data shows that about 10% of Malicious Damage is alcohol related with another 10% being domestic violence related; these percentages are only the incidents that have been reported so it is considered that the statistics could be much higher.
- Common areas that are targeted have been schools with windows being smashed and bins set on fire, Shopping centre windows and car parks are targeted on a regular basis.
- Egging of motor vehicles is a common problem where eggs are thrown from cars moving at speed which cause considerable damage to the victims' car.

Priority Issue: Theft from Motor Vehicle

Target: To reduce the incidence of theft from Motor Vehicle offences in the Dubbo which is consistent with the objectives of the NSW 2021 State Plan - "Reduce property crime by 15% by 2015-16."

Objective: To raise awareness of good practice vehicle security across the LGA

Rationale: Reports of steal from motor vehicle suggest that residents and visitors do not adequately secure vehicles or remove valuables from vehicles when parking them. It is proposed that education will reduce the likelihood of car owners being victimised.

Action	Resources	Responsibility	Performance Indicators	Timescale	Outcome
Conduct car park security information sessions for business networks, residents groups and at local clubs.	NSW Police trainer Fact sheets	DCC, NSW Police, NRMA, Chamber of Commerce	-No of sessions conducted -No of attendees - Reduce property crime by 15% by 2015-16.	Quarterly	-Reduced risk of theft from motor vehicles in car parks. -Random audit of vehicles secured. - Reduce property crime by 15% by 2015-16.
Promote vehicle security information to the community and visitors to reduce risk of being robbed.	NSW AG's Fact Sheets Articles in newspapers Security tips in tourist publications.	DCC, NSW Attorney General's Department	-No of fact sheets and resources distributed. -No of publications including security tips -Pre/post audits of visible valuables in parked vehicles in target locations. - Reduce property crime	Ongoing	-Increased community awareness of motor vehicle security -Reduced theft -Increased action by community in securing vehicle. - Reduce property crime by 15% by 2015-16.

Action	Resources	Responsibility	Performance Indicators	Timescale	Outcome
Offer free security audits of car parks to motels and other visitor accommodation centres to identify design and maintenance improvements that will reduce the risk of theft from vehicles.	NSW Police and NSW AG's officers	NSW Police NSW AG's	-No of audits conducted -No of premises that implement recommendations. - Reduce property crime by 15% by 2015-16."	Ongoing	-Reduced steal from motor vehicle offences from locations that implement recommendations. - Reduce property crime by 15% by 2015-16.

Priority Issue: Malicious Damage to Property

Target: To reduce the incidence of Malicious Damage to Property offences in the Dubbo LGA which is consistent with the objectives of the NSW 2021 State Plan - "Reduce property crime by 15% by 2015–16."

Objective: To reduce incidents of Malicious Damage to Property by raising community awareness and implementing strategies to reduce instances of damage occurring.

Rationale: Malicious damage to property is a wide spread problem but is seen to be related closely in areas where licensed premises are located and in areas where young people “hang around”. Education and promotion of projects and programs such as community art programs, late night transport and the Council’s reward for information leading to a conviction for damage to public property will reduce the likelihood of damage to both private and public property.

Action	Resources	Responsibility	Performance Indicators	Timescale	Outcome
Campaign to re introduce a late night transport program from licensed premises similar to the Bat Bus initiative.	Funding for transport & security	Dubbo Liquor Accord	-Review alcohol related Malicious Damage to Property statistics quarterly. - Reduce property crime by 15% by 2015-16.	Quarterly	-Transport from licensed premises to be faster and easier to access. - Reduce property crime by 15% by 2015-16.

Action	Resources	Responsibility	Performance Indicators	Timescale	Outcome
Plan media campaigns to educate residents of ways to reduce property damage and the importance of reporting damage to Police.	Media printed information	DCC NSW Police	-Number of campaigns held. -Survey property owners' pre and post campaign. - Reduce property crime by 15% by 2015-16.	Ongoing	-Raise awareness to the public of precautions that can be taken to reduce the likely hood of being targeted. - Reduce property crime by 15% by 2015-16.
Review locations of safety camera's and aim to locate new camera's at hot spots such as the skate park to minimise damage and use as a prosecution tool to convict offenders.	Safety Cameras. Crime Data	DCC NSW Police	- Reduce property crime by 15% by 2015-16.	Jan 2012	-Crime being driven down by the presence of the cameras and better chance of prosecution of offenders caught with the use of the safety cameras. -Reduce property crime by 15% by 2015-16.