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Byron Shire Council

Community Safety Plan

2003

Table of Contents

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| 1 | Executive Summary | 1 |
| 2 | Background Information..... | 3 |
| 2.1 | An overview of Community Safety Plans – Attorney Generals | 3 |
| 2.2 | Byron Shire Local Government Area – an Overview of Demographic and Socio-Economic Data..... | 3 |
| 2.3 | The Aboriginal Community | 4 |
| 3 | Relevant Initiatives in the Shire..... | 5 |
| 3.1 | Council Initiatives..... | 5 |
| 3.2 | State Government Initiatives..... | 7 |
| 4 | Evidence for Community Safety..... | 9 |
| 4.1 | Factors Impacting on Community Safety | 9 |
| 4.2 | Strategies demonstrated to make Communities safer | 10 |
| 5 | Principles for Safer Communities..... | 11 |
| 6 | Community Safety Profile | 11 |
| 6.1 | Key demographic and social issues | 11 |
| 6.2 | Crime Profile..... | 12 |
| 6.3 | Community Perceptions regarding community safety..... | 14 |
| 6.4 | Community Safety Profile – Summary | 15 |
| 7 | Key Focus Area: Family, Youth and Community Support..... | 18 |
| 8 | Key Focus Area: Impact of Tourism..... | 25 |
| 9 | Key Focus Area: Drug and Alcohol Use | 27 |
| 10 | Key Focus Area: Public Space and Built Environment..... | 31 |
| 11 | Key Focus Area: Personal and Property Safety | 38 |
| | Appendix 1 Community Consultation | 44 |
| 1 | Community Consultations | 44 |
| 1.1 | The Process | 44 |
| 1.2 | Results – Bangalow | 45 |
| 1.3 | Results - Byron Bay | 45 |
| 1.4 | Results – Mullumbimby..... | 46 |
| 1.5 | Results – Ocean Shores..... | 47 |
| 1.6 | Results – Youth | 47 |
| 1.7 | Results – Older People..... | 48 |
| 1.8 | Consultation with the Aboriginal Community | 50 |

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1 Executive Summary

Safety, crime, disorder and fear of crime have become major concerns for many communities. Evidence suggest there are a range of strategies involving many agencies, beyond the criminal justice system, and community which can be effective in increasing community safety and preventing crime. The development of a community safety plan is a strategy in the Councils Management Plan with responsibility to the Director, Corporate and Community Services Division. A steering committee responsible to the Social Committee of Council oversaw the development of the plan.

A number of initiatives, reflecting programs by council, and state and federal government address safety or factors associated with safety have been implemented. This plan will build on and link with these initiatives

There are a number of demographic and social issues that are currently, and/or have the potential to impact on community safety including significant population growth, socio- economic disadvantage, tourist influx with more than 1.75 million tourists visiting each year and significant needs in the Indigenous Community relating to housing, employment, impact of development on Aboriginal Heritage and lack of a culturally appropriate place for Aboriginal people to meet.

Of significance for the Byron Shire are data, which indicate that for the first time, Byron Shire ranked within the top 25 LGA's for Steal from Person and Steal from Motor Vehicle. Police in the Shire have indicated a number of factors they believe contribute to these data including alcohol abuse and other drug use, the transient nature of the population with a significant impact of tourism and the low socio economic status and high unemployment especially for youth.

Extensive consultation was undertaken with communities across the shire with significant commonality regarding community strengths/assets, especially relating to community cohesion and commitment. Many of the community concerns/issues raised commonly across all communities focused on factors contributing to safety such as lack of activities for youth, the impact of tourism, and drug and alcohol use. Common issues raised in consultation with the Aboriginal Community included safety and protection of Aboriginal heritage, health, Housing and violence and intimidation.

This plan is underpinned by the following principles:

- Support, recognition and encouragement of diversity.
- A commitment to reconciliation
- A commitment to partnerships for safety involving organisations such as the police, local councils, government departments, local business and community representatives
- A focus on the strengths of the community
- A focus on factors that contribute to unsafe behaviour
- Support for safe home and community environments
- Priority problems and priority solutions

Analysis undertaken of community and crime profiles, community consultation, and reflecting evidence for addressing community safety, have identified the following themes as a focus for the plan.

- **Family, Youth and Community Support** – building on the strengths of the community and focusing on those short and long term factors which contribute to safety
- **Drug and Alcohol Use** – addressing the significant contribution that such use has in the significant crime and safety issues in the community
- **Impact of Tourism** – building on the strengths of the shire while addressing the need for a balance between tourism and community needs
- **Public Space, and the Built Environment** – recognizing the role that changes to the policy and infrastructure can impact on significant areas of community safety

The plan identifies key actions for implementation. A key recommendation of the plan is the establishment of a committee to oversee its implementation. It is recommended that the Social Plan Committee membership be expanded to take on this role.

Acknowledgements

A sub-committee of the Council Social Committee, who provided invaluable input into the plan, oversaw the development of this plan. The membership included:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Jan Barham (Chair) | Byron Council |
| Jim Bradbury | Department of Community Services |
| Maggie Brown | Byron Youth Service |
| Greg Downes | Byron Council |
| Inspector Ian Fitzsimmons | Northern Rivers Area Command |
| Jenny Grant | NSW Premiers Depart – Community Drug Action Strategy |
| Meredith Lawrence | Southern Cross University |
| Robyn Masters | Byron Council |
| Tessa Morris | Byron Council |
| Shirley Nelson | Community Representative |
| David Reilly | Northern Rivers Area Health Service – Drug and Alcohol Services |
| Cheryl Williams | Byron Bay Community Centre |
| Mary Willis | NSW Department of Attorney General's Regional Violence Coordination Program |

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Robyn Considine | Consultant – Consan Consulting |
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In addition Dean Hart, NSW Department of Attorney General's, provided invaluable advice. The contribution of the community members from across the Shire contributed significantly in shaping the key issues, goals and strategies. Their time, commitment and effort is greatly appreciated.

2 Background Information

The Council's Social Plan recognized the need to develop and promote community cohesion and safety. The development of a community safety plan is a strategy in the Councils Management Plan with responsibility to the Director, Corporate and Community Services Division. A working party responsible to the Social Committee of Council oversaw the development of the plan.

This plan includes strategies, which will impact in the short term on community safety. In addition it will include those strategies that will lay the foundation for a longer term and sustainable approach to community safety.

2.1 An overview of Community Safety Plans – Attorney Generals

Safety, crime, disorder and fear of crime have become major concerns for many communities. Evidence suggest there are a range of strategies involving many agencies, beyond the criminal justice system, and community which can be effective in increasing community safety and preventing crime.

The development of local crime prevention *partnerships* involving organisations such as the police, local councils, government departments (e.g. Department of Community Services, Area Health Service, Department of School Education), local business and community representatives are seen as the best way of tackling local safety and crime problems.

2.2 Byron Shire Local Government Area – an Overview of Demographic and Socio-Economic Data

Byron Shire Council covers an area of approximately 566 square kilometers. The shire's population is estimated to be 30245 (ABS – Census 2001, this figure includes 2415 domestic visitors and 1329 overseas visitors). The shire experienced significant population growth between 1996 and 2001 with 1.9% p.a. compared to 1.1% p.a. in NSW. Of importance is the significant tourist influx with an estimated 1.75 million tourists to the areas every year.

The population is spread over the shire with Byron Bay, Ocean Shores and Mullumbimby contributing to nearly 50% of the population. Over 30% of the population lives in rural areas of the shire. Of the total population 6,025 (20.8%) are 0-14 years of age, with 3,626 (12.5%) over 65, rates comparable to NSW. There have been significant rates of growth of population in young people 10- 19 years and those between 40 and 59 years. It is noted that the age mix varies considerably across the shire and such variation will impact on crime rates and prevention strategies.

A number of indicators demonstrate significant socio-economic disadvantage. Income levels are considerably lower than NSW (34.8%) with just over 50% of the shire earning less than \$499/week and median level incomes for a family of \$600-\$699 compared to \$800 -\$999 in NSW. In 2001 the unemployment rate for

the Byron Shire was 14.5% double that of NSW (7.2%). There are significantly more one-parent families in Byron Shire (24%) compared to NSW (14%), with Byron Bay and Suffolk Park having 33%. While median rents are higher in the shire than others on the North Coast, access to public housing is limited, with waiting lists exceeding stock. Of all occupied private dwellings in the 2001 Census, 6981 were either fully owned or being purchased, which represents 59.5% (NSW – 64.4%) of all occupied private dwellings, while 3579 (30.5%) compared to NSW rates of 27.5%, were being rented. While school retention rates are slightly higher than state levels, attendance rates at high schools are lower than state levels (Department of Education and Training –2002).

2.3 The Aboriginal Community

Arakwal Aboriginal people are the acknowledged custodians of the Byron Bay area and retain a strong role and interest in the maintenance, protection and management of Aboriginal cultural values. The historic 1997 agreement between the State Government and the custodians guaranteed them a role in the management of the Cape Byron Reserve, land for housing and land to construct a cultural centre. In 2001 this agreement was extended.

The southern area of the shire below Byron Bay falls within the boundary of the Jali Local Aboriginal Council. The northern portion above Suffolk Park is within the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council. A very small portion of the south western part of the shire is administered by the Nguligah Local Aboriginal Land Council based in Lismore. Byron Shire is part of the Bundjalung linguistic area. Within this linguistic unit there are about 20 separate dialect territories, of which 3 dialects were reportedly spoken in traditional times including

- Njangbal around Broken Head to the south
- Wiyabel spoken to the west
- Minjanbel remainder of the Area

In 2001 it was estimated that there were 347 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in the Byron Shire, representing 1.3% of the shire's population. Of this number 181 were males and 166 females (ABS 2001). The largest age group of Indigenous people is in the range of 10-24 years. The next largest is between the ages of 30 -49 years. Figures taken from the Many Rivers Regional Council indicate that the average individual weekly income is around \$223 and the unemployment rate in the area is around 32.6%, compared to 18.9% for non-Indigenous people. Fifty six percent of the households rent their accommodation, with 20.7% either paying off a housing loan or fully owning their homes (1998 Lismore Office of the ATSI and Regional Coordination Program, NSW Premier's Department).

The Needs Assessment of Aboriginal People (1998) undertaken in the shire indicated that while some Aboriginal people are family members and relatives of the traditional owners of the land, the Arakwal group, there are also many others who have relocated from other areas throughout Australia and are now

permanent residents of the shire. Housing, employment, transport, education and health were the major issues of concern identified in this Shire in the Needs Assessment. Another equally important concern was that there is no central place where Indigenous and Islander peoples can meet and have culturally appropriate service opportunities made available.

The Environmental Study undertaken in the Byron Bay and Suffolk Park area (2003) indicated that there were concerns in the Aboriginal community regarding the impact of increasing population on Aboriginal heritage. Of concern is the destruction of significant Aboriginal sites from development. Strong protection of Aboriginal sites remaining in the shire is paramount to the survival of Aboriginal heritage.

3 Relevant Initiatives in the Shire

A number of initiatives have been implemented in the shire to address community safety. These initiatives reflect programs by council, and state and federal government to address safety or factors associated with safety. These initiatives are described below but do not reflect all initiatives.

3.1 Council Initiatives

The Byron Shire Council has implemented a number of initiatives to address community safety. For example Byron Bay has developed an effective and well-publicized crime prevention plan focusing on minimizing harm associated with New Year's Eve. The required community safety plan will build on the success of this approach across the shire. The following are a summary of council initiatives, which have been/are being undertaken to address community safety in Byron Shire.

3.1.1 Byron Bay Community Safety Committee

The committee was formed following conflict of 1993 New Years Eve celebrations. Features of the initiatives included:

- a number of measures to ensure future New Years Eve Celebrations were able to manage the influx of tourists effectively
 - Road closure, street entertainment, stickers for entry into town
 - Strategy was used as an example by NSW government in brochure to assist communities to find solutions to alcohol-related violence and crime
- a forum to address community concern regarding drug use
 - Health, Council, Police, State and Federal Government reps and community members attended
 - resulted in a broader understanding amongst the community members of the complexity of the issues, including the impact of rapid population growth on the North Coast
 - Many new residents expected to find health services similar to that found in capital cities placing a huge demand on existing services

- Byron Bay Safety Committee, and community members lobbied intensively for a detox unit. This was met with great success with the detox unit now established in Lismore
- A Community Safety Audit it undertaken by Byron Bay Police with the involvement of the Byron Bay Safety Committee in 1998. A number of areas were identified for improved lighting and patrolling.

3.1.2 Transients and Byron Bay

- 1998 student placement – report produced– Transients and Byron Bay
- 1999 – Byron Shire Interagency received funding from Area Assistance Scheme to undertake a further report that looked at strategies to address needs of transients and services who work with homeless.
- Protocol- Dealing with Homeless People - Developed in June 2002

3.1.3 Byron Bay Local Crime Prevention Plan

- Developed to manage 1999/2000 New Years Eve celebrations – Strategies limited to New Years Eve
- Attorney General's Department approved application for a Safer Community Compact under the Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 – effective period 3.12.1999 to 2.12.2002 (endorsement of Crime Prevention Plan above – limited to New Years Eve)

3.1.4 Young People and Community Safety

- June 2001 – Council's Community Projects Officer facilitated a meeting with a group of youth workers to develop an application to Area Assistance Scheme for funding to address safety concerns within the community, resulting from potential conflict between young people, pressures of tourism and safety concerns of broader community
- February 2002 – The General Manager of Byron Council organised a forum with police, Juvenile Justice and other youth services to respond to the youth conflict in Byron Bay after violent clashes between groups of young people in Apex Park
 - Byron Youth Services prepared an application to FACs for funding of a Street Cruise project – a project to employ street workers to act as a first point of contact for young people in crisis, to offer support, mediation and referral for young people.
 - The General Manager of Byron Council, Community Projects Officer and Aboriginal Projects Officer met with Larry Anthony MP, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to encourage support of this pilot project.
 - FACs has recently funded this project for a 4 month trial.

3.1.5 Child Protection Procedure

- Council is committed to ensuring that children and young people using Council services are safe and free from risk of harm.
- Council will comply with all relevant aspects of Child protection legislation

3.1.6 Protest / public assembly protocol

- In June 2002 Council developed the protocol, which outlines lines of communication during protest and public assembly. This initiative came about after a protest situation at Paterson Hill in Byron Bay resulted in arrests and injury to some of the local people who were involved in a protest to protect a significant environmental site that was proposed for development.

3.1.7 Disability Action Plan

- Byron Shire Council has developed a Disability Action Plan and is in the process of implementing the recommendations of that plan.

3.1.8 CARE Parent Support Program

The Care parent Support Program is a two year pilot project funded under the Child Abuse Prevention Program by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services. It is auspiced by Byron Shire Council and commenced in July 2001 as an Early Intervention Parenting Project for families of young children in Byron Shire. The pilot project was due to finish in July 2003, however has just been extended for another 12 months.

The program co-ordinator has worked directly with over 120 families across the Shire, including home visits and facilitating courses, such as, Creative Parenting.

3.2 State Government Initiatives

3.2.1 Families First

Families First is the NSW Government's prevention and early intervention strategy that helps parents give their children a good start in life. It focuses on connecting parents to each other for support and building communities and services that support families with children 0-8. Families First is delivered jointly by five government agencies – Area Health Services, Community Services, Education and Training, Housing and Disability, Ageing and Home Care in partnership with parents, community organisations and local government. The plan for the North Coast includes strategies for implementation in the Byron Shire.

Achievements of relevance in the shire to date have included:

- Expansion of early childhood nursing services so that all parents of newborn babies can be offered home visits
- Establishment of a Parenting Centre at Ocean Shores
- Supported Playgroup in Byron Bay

- Family Worker Services, supporting families from the birth of the baby in Byron Shire
- Community Parenting service connecting parents with each other for support and linking parents to specialist services and general parenting information in Byron Bay
- Project auspiced by Byron Shire Council providing
 - Better networking between agencies in the shire
 - Directory of parenting supports

3.2.2 Drug and Community Action Strategy

The strategy is part of the Government Plan of Action, which was developed following the Drug Summit. In partnership with the community, the Strategy is being implemented by the NSW Premier's Department.

The objectives of the Drugs and Community Action Strategy include:

- Raising community awareness of drug issues
- Positive and coordinated action at local and regional levels
- Government working together with the community
- Local solutions for local drug issues
- Better links between funding programs and initiatives
- More cooperation at local, regional, state and national levels.

Community drug action teams have been established in a number of towns in the North Coast with a focus for the Byron Shire in 2003 – 04.

3.2.3 Regional Violence Prevention Program

The NSW Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women includes a network of Regional Violence Prevention Specialists (RVPS), employed by the Attorney General's Department and located in 17 regions across NSW including the North Coast. Each RVPS works in a regional office of one of the partner agencies. The work of the RVPS is to:

- help improve links within and between government and non-government agencies
- facilitate community education program
- facilitate training of workers and specialist staff
- conduct capacity building in communities
- develop projects to reduce violence against women

The RVPS for the Northern Rivers Region is supported and advised by Domestic Violence Committees, interagency forums, members of community and representatives of government and non-government agencies. They meet regularly to assist the RVPS to identify issues, build links with organisations and develop and implement projects.

The RVPS has supported and resourced the Byron Shire Stop Violence Against Women Committee in their community awareness campaigns for Stop Domestic Violence Day in April each year and the annual Reclaim the Night march and

rally for the prevention of sexual violence against women and children. Most RVPS are supported and advised by a Regional Reference Group. They meet regularly to assist the RVPS to identify issues, build links with organisations and develop and implement projects.

3.2.4 Crime Prevention Planning

The State Government has initiated Crime Prevention planning for the built environment, which has been adopted by Byron Shire Council and forms part of councils planning instruments

4 Evidence for Community Safety

The following is a summary of the evidence regarding what works in improving community safety. This evidence arises both from research and activities in other areas, which have demonstrated improvements in community safety.

4.1 Factors Impacting on Community Safety

4.1.1 Long term factors

- Unemployment and in particular youth long term unemployment are strongly related to criminal activity particularly property crime.
- Low school retention and completion rates are strongly related to crime
- Illicit drug use, unemployment and crime are strongly related
- Community connectedness such as community belonging and involvement is strongly associated with positive feelings of community safety
- Strong family bonds and effective parenting in the first 3 years of life are strongly associated with better outcomes such as improved education and reduced involvement in drug use and crime in later life
- Poor parental supervision and conflict within home increase the likelihood of adolescents committing a crime
- Truancy, exclusion from school, friends/siblings in trouble with the police and poor school performance mean adolescents are more likely to commence criminal behaviours
- Divisive rather than inclusive communities are more likely to have higher rates of criminal activity
- Agencies that work cooperatively together with communities to identify and solve problems are more likely to be effective in addressing community safety

4.1.2 Short term factors

- Alcohol misuse impacts strongly on community safety contributing to perceptions of feeling unsafe as well as using significant police and community resources in addressing its misuse.
- Lack of activities for youth are associated with increased unsafe behaviours and potentially criminal events

- Poor environments such as poorly lit areas and lack of transport are likely to result in higher rates of community members feeling unsafe and criminal incidents

4.2 Strategies demonstrated to make Communities safer

4.2.1 Long term strategies

- Initiatives which support employment, training and retention in school programs are likely in the long term to reduce crime
- Support for families with young children, through parenting programs and initiatives such as Families First Programs have been demonstrated to result in better outcomes for children in later life
- Increasing community involvement in local initiatives from planning to implementation and monitoring of initiatives. e.g. involving communities in decisions about use of space and future developments
- Ensuring subgroups within the community are included and recognised in community events
- Identifying and building on the strengths of the community is more likely to result in shared initiatives to address community safety than focusing on the negatives
- Viewing drug use as a health and social issue instead of a criminal issues so that strategies are aimed at assisting drug users reduce use through initiatives such as drug rehabilitation programs are more likely to be effective in reducing drug related crime.

4.2.2 Short Term strategies

- Implementation and enforcement of a range of alcohol initiatives including
 - Responsible service of alcohol by licensed premises
 - Enforcement of sales to minors legislation
 - Increased visibility of random breath testing
- Improved lighting in common areas and pedestrian thoroughfares
- Initiatives to increase home safety and reduce repeat break and enter opportunities include police tagging of property, the provision of a crime prevention information, victim support packages, warning of neighbours, increased finger printing and increased police strategies which specifically target repeat offenders
- Making crime more difficult by increased security measures, reducing access to areas likely to attract unsafe behaviour
- Reducing the rewards from criminal behaviour such as repairing vandalism and removing graffiti quickly to reduce repeat incidents
- Where there are difficulties between youth and older community members, initiatives such as neighbourhood mediation services, inter generational initiatives which bring young and old together have been effective
- Preventing repeat offending by instilling a sense of responsibility in young offenders, making restoration to their victims and reintegrating them into their community so they do not offend again. This involves targeting prevention on those most likely to re-offend and ensuring that community sentences are

intensive, rigorous and effective by including education, mentoring and training options. Programs to prevent repeat offending should be intensive enough to make a difference

5 Principles for Safer Communities

This plan is underpinned by the following principles, which if applied and enacted by Council and the community will enhance community safety

- Support, recognition and encouragement of diversity
- A commitment to reconciliation
- A commitment to partnerships for safety involving organisations such as the police, local councils, government departments, local business and community representatives
- A focus on the strengths of the community
- A focus on factors that contribute to unsafe behaviour
- Support for safe home and community environments
- Priority problems and priority solutions

6 Community Safety Profile

The community safety profile consists of a number of sections, which in total contributes to picture of community safety in the shire. Crime data is only one aspect of factors impacting on community safety. Many events occur which impact on community safety which are either not criminal events or do not result in a criminal charge. Such events may contribute significantly to community perceptions of feeling unsafe, and use significant community resources. For example domestic violence is not reflected in these data primarily because of underreporting, and many incidents not resulting in chargeable offences. The community safety profile describes a summary of data and other relevant information, which impacts on community safety and includes

- Key Demographic Issues
- Crime Profile
- Community Perceptions regarding Safety

6.1 Key demographic and social issues

The demographic profile of the Shire is reported in Section 2. There are a number of demographic and social issues that are currently, and/or have the potential to impact on community safety. These issues have been determined because of evidence supporting linkage between the demographic issue and safety or because of the size of the issue. These issues are:

- Population is increasing at a significant rate in comparison to other areas in NSW
- There is significant population increases in young people 10- 19 years and those between 40 and 59 years
- There is significant socio-economic disadvantage including
 - Income levels lower than NSW (34.8%) with 50% of the shire earning less than \$499/week

- Unemployment rate for the Byron Shire was 14.5% more than double that of NSW (7.2%).
- Significantly more one-parent families in Byron Shire (24%) compared to NSW (14%).
- Median rents are higher in the shire than others on the North Coast, access to public housing is limited, with waiting lists exceeding stock.
- There is a significant influx of tourist with estimated 1.75 million tourists to the area every year. Significantly allocation for resources to services is based on estimated resident population and does not take into account tourist populations
- The Aboriginal Needs Assessment identified the following issues as key in their community
 - Housing,
 - Employment
 - Transport
 - Education
 - Health
 - Lack of central place where Indigenous and Islander peoples can come together and meet
- In addition the Environmental Study indicated that there were significant concerns in the community regarding the impact of development on Aboriginal heritage.

6.2 Crime Profile

Information from NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research data is summarised below regarding

- Those events which are the most common in the shire
- Those events, which occur at a significantly higher rate in Byron Shire, compared to NSW.

These data should be used as only part of the information on crime and safety in the Byron Shire. Information is not available on the location or context of these events.

6.2.1 Most commonly occurring crimes in the Byron Shire

Table 1 describes the average number of criminal incidents that have occurred in the Byron Shire between 1997 and 2001. Incidents selected are those that averaged more than 100 incidents per annum.

Table 1 - Average Number of Incidents/Year – 1997 - 2001

| Criminal Incident | Average Number of Incidents/Year – 1997 - 2001 |
|--|---|
| Stealing from a motor vehicle | 398.2 |
| Malicious damage to property | 355.6 |
| Driving under the influence of alcohol | 343.0 |
| Possession of cannabis | 298.6 |
| Stealing from dwelling | 226.6 |
| Stealing from a retail premise | 112.4 |
| Theft of car | 111.8 |

6.2.2 Crimes committed at a significantly higher rate in Byron Shire compared to NSW

Table 2 describes the criminal incidents that occurred in the Byron Shire at a significantly higher rate than the rest of NSW in 2001.

Table 2– Criminal Incidents Rate per 100,000 Populations – Byron Shire and NSW, 2001

| Criminal Incident | Byron Shire Rate per 100,000 population | NSW Rate per 100,000 population | Actual Numbers of Charges |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cannabis Possession | 1282.3 | 219.3 | 379 |
| Stealing from a Dwelling | 795.1 | 481.5 | 235 |
| Possession and Use of Narcotics | 60.9 | 16.7 | 18 |
| Dealing in Narcotics | 71.1 | 7.0 | 21 |
| Offensive Conduct | 311.3 | 64.7 | 92 |
| Offensive Language | 243.6 | 91.1 | 72 |
| Driving under the influence | 1451.5 | 360.8 | 429 |
| Thefts from retail property | 439.0 | 316.1 | 130 |

Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 2002

Of significance for the Byron Shire are data indicating crime hotspots in NSW. The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BoCSaR) identifies annually those Local Government Areas (LGA's) with the highest rate per 100,000 population of particular crime incidents. These data present a picture of crime hotspots in NSW. Up until 2001 Byron Shire was not included in the top 25 LGA's for any incident. However in 2002 the Byron Shire ranked within the top 25 LGA's for 2 incidents. These incidents were: Steal from Person – Ranked 11 out of 25 LGA's with 446.6 incidents per 100,000 population; Steal from Motor Vehicle – Ranked 9 out of 25 LGA's with 1,911.6 incidents per 100,000 population. Police in the Shire have indicated a number of factors they believe contribute to these data. These factors include:

- alcohol abuse with many alcohol related incidents occurring in the early hours of Friday, Saturday and Sunday
- other drug use
- transient nature of the population with a significant impact of tourism (data indicate peaks in stealing incidents in the Easter and Christmas breaks associated with significant tourist influx)
- low socio economic status and high unemployment especially for youth

While assaults do not appear as significant incidents in the data in Tables 1 and 2, because they often do not result in charges, police indicate assaults are a significant problem in the shire, with an increase across the Tweed/Byron Command from 1999 – 2001. Of these assaults, approximately 30% were domestic violence related assaults, with approximately one third of all assault identified as being alcohol related. Police however believe alcohol was a significantly higher contributing factor than indicated from the data.

6.3 Community Perceptions regarding community safety

Perceptions of safety and crime are an important component of an understanding of crime and safety in communities. Consultation workshops with key community stakeholders were undertaken with in 4 communities:

- Bangalow
- Byron Bay
- Mullumbimby
- Ocean Shores

In addition, consultations were undertaken with representatives from

- Youth
- Older people
- Aboriginal Community Members

As part of the community consultations, key stakeholders were asked to identify and prioritise strengths or assets, and concerns or issues, regarding community safety. The process of the consultation and results are reported in Appendix 1. Results across all workshops were analysed to identify common themes across the shire.

6.3.1 Community Strengths/Assets

The following issues were raised as common strengths/assets across all the workshops:

- Tolerance and diversity in the community
- Strong sense of community belonging and cohesiveness
- Recognition of the existing and potential capacity in the community to work together
- Physical environment
- Politically and socially aware community who are prepared to articulate and act on issues
- Willingness to take care and watch over each other
- Range of services available across the shire
- Strong service interrelationships
- Healthy and relaxed environment

6.3.2 Community Concerns/Issues

The following issues were raised as common concerns across all the workshops:

- Poor transport across the shire
- Lack of activities and resources for youth
- Very limited access to affordable housing
- Impact of tourism on community resources, environment and infrastructure, with insufficient return from the tourism dollar to the community

- Police presence, responsiveness and coverage across the shire
- Limited employment opportunities especially for youth
- Drug and alcohol use and associated negative impacts on the community
- Impact of the changing demographic on cohesion, resources, access to housing
- Lack of planning, especially in the past, regarding service infrastructure
- Domestic violence

The commonality across the shire regarding community strengths/assets, especially relating to community cohesion and commitment is of importance in addressing community safety. Building on the community strengths, and the willingness of the community to work together on issues will be an important part of the process for building community safety.

Many of the community concerns/issues raised commonly across all communities focused on factors contributing to safety. There was a high degree of recognition and commitment by key stakeholders to address those factors, which they believe contribute significantly to crime in the shire. There was a close correlation between the concerns raised by the community, the evidence regarding contributing factors such as lack of activities for youth, socio-economic indicators (access to affordable housing, unemployment) and the data and information from police.

6.3.3 Specific Issues Raised by the Aboriginal Community

The common issues raised in the Aboriginal Community were:

- Safety and protection of Aboriginal heritage
- Health
- Housing
- Activities for youth
- Violence and Intimidation

6.4 Community Safety Profile – Summary

All data sources were analysed to identify common themes for addressing community safety. Across all data sources there was a close correlation about major safety issues and contributing factors. These themes reflect both specific safety issues and their contributing factors.

The Shire has experienced significant population growth over the last two decades. In addition the shire experiences high levels of socio-economic disadvantage regarding unemployment especially for young people, and a high proportion of single parents. Concurrently there have been significant increases in tourism and in home prices across the shire, resulting in a reduction in affordable housing, and pressure on local resources and infrastructure from tourist numbers. Importantly decisions regarding resources for the community are often based on residential population and do not factor in the impact of tourist numbers on the local services, resulting in significant strain especially on human

services such as health, police and youth services. The seasonality of some crime incidents such as stealing, and the timing of incidents such as assaults in the early hours of Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings reflects the significant impact of tourism on community safety.

There is a high level of awareness, commitment and connectedness across the shire. Given the evidence indicating partnership approaches are effective in building community safety, strategies included in the plan need to build on these strengths. Community consultations also demonstrated a high level of understanding to address the factors, which contribute to crime such as support for parents of young children, improving school retention rates and broadening post school opportunities for young people.

Drug and alcohol use was recognised by the community as a major community safety issue. Crime data also reflects such use in the type of crime and the times of occurrence. Service providers indicated that alcohol abuse was significant in the shire. Alcohol abuse has also contributed significantly to Domestic Violence and other assaults in the shire. Dealing with youth affected by alcohol was common for police, night youth workers and health staff. Service providers indicated that many youth were underage and congregated in public spaces to consume alcohol. In addition Byron Bay has developed a reputation as a party town with visitors attracted to the Area because of this reputation. This has resulted in difficulties in the community including:

- the negative impact on community safety because of the behavior associated with people affected by alcohol
- the perception created for young local people that such partying and alcohol consumption is the norm in the community
- the attraction of businesses to support this image
- the likelihood of alternative activities for young people to compete with the partying image is limited

Key stakeholders identified a number of mitigating factors relating to public space, in communities across the shire, which mitigated against community safety. While safety audits have been undertaken in Byron Bay, many issues have not been addressed. Such audits have not been undertaken in other communities. Lack of public transport across the shire was raised as a common concern across the shire, which contributed to access problems to services and employments, and to people especially youth taking risks such as hitchhiking to move across the shire.

As a result of analysis across all data sources and reflecting evidence for addressing community safety, the following themes have been identified as a focus for the plan

- **Family, Youth and Community Support** – building on the strengths of the community and focusing on those short and long term factors which contribute to safety

- **Drug and Alcohol Use** – addressing the significant contribution that such use has in the significant crime and safety issues in the community
- **Impact of Tourism** – building on the strengths of the shire while addressing the need for a balance between tourism and community needs
- **Public Space, and the Built Environment** – recognizing the role that changes to the policy and infrastructure can impact on significant areas of community safety

7 Key Focus Area: Family, Youth and Community Support Objectives

- To increase initiatives to support families, youth and community
- To increase recreational activities for youth
- To enhance post-school options for youth

Indicators

- School attendance rates
- Youth related criminal incidents
- Domestic Violence Incidents
- Post school training options

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|------------------------------|---|--|-------------|--|--------------------------|
| Commitment to reconciliation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a framework for inclusion in the Council's management plan reflecting the commitment to reconciliation in collaboration with Aboriginal community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework signed and supported by council and members of Aboriginal Community | June 2004 | Lead Council Supporting Members of Local Aboriginal Community | Within current resources |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review development codes to ensure protection of Aboriginal heritage sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council agreement to review of development codes in conjunction with Aboriginal community • Review of codes completed | June 2005 | Lead Council Supporting Members of Local Aboriginal Community | Within current resources |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|---------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Commitment to youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Council “Youth Commitment” as a partnership with the youth of the shire, and other relevant agencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorandum of Understanding signed by council and youth representatives from the shire | July 2004 | Lead Council and Byron Youth Service Supporting WEBY Youth Interagency, Members of Local Aboriginal Community | Dependant on external resources. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure youth involvement in all planning for relevant future council initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth involved in all relevant planning processes across the shire | ongoing | Lead Council | Within current Council resources |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the collaborative development and implementation of initiatives to enhance police youth relationships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings held between police and youth such as Positive Contact Sessions Action plan in place | December 2003 June 2004 | Lead Police Supporting WEBY Youth Interagency, Byron Youth Service | Within current Police resources |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Commitment to Youth (cont'd) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Premiers Department and Department of Community Services (State) and Family and Community Services funding for proactive youth initiatives in collaboration with DET | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative proposal developed between Education, DOCS and Council Funding received for proactive youth initiatives | <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2006</p> | <p>Lead WEBY Youth Interagency, Byron Youth Service</p> <p>Supporting Council DET DoCs Health</p> | <p>Within current BYS resources</p> |
| Post school opportunities for youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with state and federal education departments for increased range of locally accessible post school education, training and employment options for youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative proposal developed between Education (School and TAFE), and Council Funding received for additional post school options | <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council, Byron Youth Service</p> <p>Supporting Area Consultative Committee, DET DoCs</p> | <p>Dependant on external funds for Youth Commitment Co-ordinator.</p> |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| Youth support and recreational activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue support for programs to support youth on the street such as Streetcruise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal for ongoing funding for Streetcruise developed Ongoing funding provided for Streetcruise | <p>June 2003</p> <p>December 2003</p> | <p>Lead Byron Youth Service</p> <p>Supporting Council DOCS Police Education</p> | Dependent on external resources |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with entertainment venues to provide safe venues for youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Meetings with venue proprietors held Actions identified for safe youth entertainment Increase in number of safe youth entertainment venues | <p>December 2003</p> <p>December 2003</p> <p>December 2004</p> | <p>Lead Byron Youth Service</p> <p>Supporting Council Police</p> | Within existing resources |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide crisis support for youth and families | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal for funding for crisis welfare worker developed Funding received for crisis welfare worker Counselling, referral services provided to families and youth in crisis | <p>December 2003</p> <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004 and ongoing</p> | <p>Lead Byron Bay Community Centre, Byron Youth Service</p> <p>Support Council</p> | Dependent on receipt of external funds |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| Youth support and recreational activities (cont'd) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for youth night entertainment including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transport access to and from venue ○ Strategies to minimise impact on local streets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Batbus provided for major youth events across shire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2003 and ongoing | Lead Council Supporting Police Community Transport | Within current Council and Community Transport resources. |
| Support for families with young children and teenagers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a collaborative project with youth workers, DET and other relevant agencies regarding parenting of adolescents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenting program provided annually at each high school in shire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2003 and ongoing | Lead DET Supporting Byron Youth Service | Within current DET resources |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to participate with DOC's in Families First consultation and planning processes to develop initiatives for ages 9-16 for the shire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Funding obtained for 9-16 years • Additional services provided for 9-16 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2004 • June 2005 | Lead Byron Youth Service, Council Support DOCS Education | Dependent on funding for additional services |
| Domestic Violence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held to explore options | 3 meetings held within 12 | Lead Violence | Within Current |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|--|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| | options for women and their families who are victims of Domestic Violence | including accommodation, service support and referral in the Shire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options paper developed DV education campaign to raise awareness of impacts of domestic violence on community annually | months across Shire June 2004 ongoing | Prevention Coordinator, Domestic Violence Committee, Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program Support DOCS Council Police Health | resource of Regional Violence Program |
| Maximising Access to Community Centres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the use and criteria for access of the Ocean Shores community Centre to ensure maximum community access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review held of access including consultation with community members Recommendations to improve access implemented | June 2004 December 2004 | Lead Council | Within current Council resources |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|---|--|---|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Maximising Access to Community Centres (cont'd) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Indigenous organisations to establish a One Stop Shop for the Aboriginal Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal developed for funding one stop shop • Funding received for accommodation for one stop shop • Services Provided from premises | <p>December 2003</p> <p>June 2004</p> <p>June 2005</p> | <p>Lead NRAHS</p> <p>Support ATSIC Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Council</p> | Dependent on external funding |

8 Key Focus Area: Impact of Tourism

Objectives

To increase the safety of visitors to Byron Shire

To increase the resources returned to the local community from tourism

Indicators

- Criminal incidents at Easter and Christmas
- Value of tourism dollar returned to the community
- Incidents associated with New Years Eve

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|----------------|--|---|-------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Visitor safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and encourage backpacker and local community collaborative planning and events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Meetings between backpacker associations and council regarding specific safety issues | ongoing | Lead Council Support Backpacker Associations Police | Within current council resources |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue support and planning for Safe New Years Eve in Byron Bay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Plans for New Years Eve in Place • Successful New Years Eve held | ongoing | Lead Council Support Police, Chamber of Commerce, Licensees | Self funding. |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Visitor Safety (cont'd) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and distribute safe partying packs for visitors targeting backpackers and schoolies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe Partying Packs developed 1000 distributed per annum | <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council</p> <p>Support Backpacker Associations Police Health</p> | Dependent on external resources |
| Impact of tourism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a study to determine options to increase allocation of tourist spending to enhance community services and infrastructure while still supporting local tourism businesses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study parameters developed Funding proposal developed Funding obtained Options presented to council | <p>December 2003</p> <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> <p>June 2005</p> | <p>Lead Council NSW Tourism</p> | Dependent on external resources |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an information package for tourists reflecting mutual obligations of the community and tourists for sustainable tourism for distribution through tourism venues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding proposal developed Package developed Package disseminated through real estate agents and backpackers | <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> <p>June 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council</p> <p>Support Backpacker Associations Accommodation Association Police Health</p> | Dependent on external resources |

9 Key Focus Area: Drug and Alcohol Use

Objectives

To reduce the impact of alcohol misuse in the Shire

To reduce the impact of illicit drugs in the Shire

Indicators

- Alcohol related incidents attended by police in the shire
- Alcohol related domestic violence attended by police
- Drug and alcohol related sexual assaults
- Drug related crime incidents

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| Impact of alcohol abuse in the community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the establishment of Liquor Accord in Byron Bay • Ensure the Accord focuses on underage drinking, responsible service of alcohol, secondary sales of alcohol | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment from all agencies to develop accord • Funding proposal submitted to Police • Draft accord developed • Accord signed off by heads of Police, AHA and RCA | <p>December 2003</p> <p>December 2003 June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> | <p>Lead Police</p> <p>Support Council NRAHS AHA RCA</p> | <p>Within existing police resources and with support from funding from Police</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the "Linking" data collection and feedback system for all alcohol related incidents in the shire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Police trained in Linking system • Regular feedback provided to all Licensees on alcohol related incidents | <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004 and ongoing</p> | <p>Lead Police</p> | <p>Within existing police resources</p> |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| Impact of alcohol abuse in the community (cont'd) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure enforcement of alcohol free zones across the shire through increase in ranger presence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement proposal developed in consultation with youth, backpackers and transients Cost of increased presence identified Costing options identified Additional enforcement in place | <p>June 2004</p> <p>June 2004</p> <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council Support Police</p> | <p>Dependent on allocation of additional resources by Council</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop educational information targeting strategies to reduce risk for young people from binge drinking and drink spiking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds obtained for project Information developed and piloted Information disseminated | <p>December 2003</p> <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council, Byron Youth Service Support Health Police</p> | <p>Dependent on external funds</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide regular information to the community on the alcohol related incidents in the shire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment from police to provide this information to media on a regular basis Regular reports provided to media | <p>December 2003</p> <p>ongoing</p> | <p>Lead Police</p> | <p>Within existing police resources</p> |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| Impact of illicit drugs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the establishment of and projects for a Community Drug Action Teams for the Shire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominated officers from council to participate in establishment of CDAT Council promotes and support CDAT activities | <p>December 2003</p> <p>December 2003 and ongoing</p> | <p>Lead CDAT Project Manager</p> <p>Support Council Health Police</p> | Within existing Community Drug Strategy Resources |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop educational information targeting strategies to reduce risk for young people from binge drinking and drink spiking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds obtained for project Information developed and piloted Information disseminated | <p>December 2003 June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council, Byron Youth Service</p> <p>Support Health Police</p> | Dependent on external funds |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop campaign targeting strategies to reduce risks of alcohol or drug assisted sexual assault | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds obtained for project Information developed and piloted Information disseminated | <p>December 2003 June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> | <p>Lead Sexual Assault Services NRAHS</p> <p>Support Violence against Women Campaign, Police</p> | Dependent on external funds |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Impact of illicit drugs (cont'd) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorse the harm minimization approach to drug and alcohol use, as a health and social issue, not a criminal issue | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft statement of commitment to harm minimisation presented to council for support Statement of support ratified by Council | <p>December 2003</p> <p>June 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council Support Health</p> | <p>Within existing council resources</p> |

10 Key Focus Area: Public Space and Built Environment

Objectives

To improve access to public space for safe recreational activities

To improve access to transport across the shire

Indicators

- Police incidents attended by police involving youth
- Increase in the number of youth recreational facilities
- Decrease in number of assaults

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Recreational activities for youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise the allocation of resources for skate parks in Mullumbimby, Byron Bay and Ocean Shores and Bangalow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costing of skate parks prepared • Priorities over 3 years determined • Funding allocated • Parks built as per priorities | December 2003 December 2003 June 2004 As per priority plan | Lead Council | Within existing Council resources |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and seek resources for appropriate community setting for youth initiatives in Mullumbimby | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options for community setting identified in consultation with youth • Costing of community setting identified • Funding proposal developed • Funding obtained | December 2003 June 2004 December 2004 June 2005 | Lead Council, Byron Youth Service Support Police Education DOCs | Dependent on external resources |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Recreational activities for youth (cont'd) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and seek resources for appropriate community setting for youth initiatives in Ocean Shores | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options for community setting identified in consultation with youth Costing of prepared Funding sort to support community setting | <p>December 2003</p> <p>June 2004 December 2004 June 2005</p> | <p>Lead Council, Byron Youth Service</p> <p>Support Police Education DOCs</p> | Dependent on external resources |
| Transport access across the shire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify priority actions for enhancing transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Study commissioned by council Priorities accepted by council | <p>June 2003</p> <p>December 2003</p> | <p>Lead NRSDC Transport Project</p> <p>Support RTA</p> | Dependent on external resources |
| Transport access across the shire (cont'd) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase number of cycleways within the shire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shirewide priorities determined Implementation program commenced. | <p>December 2003 2003/2004</p> | <p>Lead Council</p> <p>Support RTA Sport and Recreation</p> | Roads to Recovery, RTA and Council funds. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for changes to public transport concessions for rural areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement by council for lobbying Lobbying actions implemented | <p>December 2003 June 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council</p> | Within existing Council resources |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|-------------|--|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Road safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a campaign for safe cycling focusing on use of helmets, and lights at night | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding proposal developed • Funding obtained • Campaign developed in consultation with community • Campaign implemented | <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004 June 2005</p> <p>December 2005</p> | <p>Lead Council</p> <p>Support Police RTA</p> | Dependent on external resources |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review parking in the shire as a partnership with older people to ensure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessible and appropriately located disabled parking ○ Accessible parking close to services frequented by older people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of disabled parking undertaken in consultation with older people and people with disabilities • Actions for changes agreed by council • Changes to improve access to parking implemented | <p>December 2003</p> <p>December 2003 June 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council</p> <p>Support DADHC HACC Services Health</p> | Within existing Council resources |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|----------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Road safety (cont'd) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review number and visibility of pedestrian crossings and general street crossings to provide safe environments for older people crossing the road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of pedestrian crossings undertaken in consultation with older people Actions for changes agreed by council Changes to improve access to parking implemented | <p>December 2004</p> <p>June 2005</p> <p>December 2005</p> | <p>Lead Council Support DADHC HACC Services Health</p> | <p>Within existing Council Resources</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current provision of walkways and footbridges in Ocean Shores, and identifying needs and allocating resources for improved access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of walkways undertaken in consultation with local community Actions for changes agreed by council Changes to improve access to parking implemented | <p>June 2005</p> <p>December 2005</p> <p>December 2006</p> | <p>Lead Council Support RTA DADHC Health</p> | <p>Dependent on external funding</p> |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|--------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work collaboratively with Police, RTA regarding options for reducing speeding in the Ocean Shores residential areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting organized between local residents, police and RTA regarding speeding Options to control speeding developed by Police and RTA in consultation with local community Agreement by RTA, Police, Council and community regarding options | <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> <p>June 2005</p> | <p>Lead Council Support RTA Police</p> | <p>Predatory work within Council resources</p> <p>Actions to address speeding dependent on external funding</p> |
| Traffic Congestion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review traffic flow and patterns within the Byron retail area and implement plans for reduced congestion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority actions identified and accepted by council | <p>June 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council Support RTA Police</p> | <p>Subject to funds being made available.</p> |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
| Access to affordable housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobbying for increased options for affordable housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations on affordable housing strategy implemented. Agreement from council to lobby NSW Government regarding housing options | <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council Support NSW Housing</p> | <p>Within existing Council Resources</p> |
| Making public space safer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise and implement the recommendations of the Byron Bay Safety audit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priorities for action identified Costing for priorities determined Priorities accepted by council | <p>December 2003</p> <p>December 2003</p> <p>June 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council Support Police</p> | <p>Within existing Council Resources</p> |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Making public space safer (cont'd) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake safety audits, and implement priority strategies in each of the major towns in the Shire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety audits completed for Mullumbimby, Ocean Shores, Brunswick Heads and Bangalow Include in safety audits a review of the location and lighting around ATM's Lobby financial institutions for improved safety and security measures around ATM's | <p>December 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> | Lead Council Support Police | Within existing Council Resources |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate funds for improved lighting in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkway near Feros Village Streets near youth and community centres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costing for improved lighting determined Acceptance by council for expenditure Lighting changes implemented | <p>December 2003</p> <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> | | |

11 Key Focus Area: Personal and Property Safety

Objectives

- To reduce the number of personal thefts
- To reduce the number of thefts from motor vehicles
- To reduce the number of thefts from retail stores

Indicators

- Number of Personal Thefts in Shire
- Number of Thefts from Motor Vehicles
- Number of Thefts from Retail Stores
- Ranking of Byron Shire in Crime Hotspots

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|----------------|--|--|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| General Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish link on Byron Shire Council Website to groups providing services supporting Community Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links on website to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Byron Bay Community Centre ○ Northern Rivers Xchange | December 2003 | Lead Council | Within Existing Council Resources |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and disseminate pamphlet with key community safety contact details | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamphlet disseminated with rate notices | June 2004 | Lead Council | Dependent on external funds |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|-----------------|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Personal safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, implement and evaluate a project to decrease personal theft in conjunction with Backpackers Associations and other tourist operators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding proposal developed and funds obtained for project Consultation with youth and backpackers undertaken Strategies for improved safety for hitchhikers implemented and evaluated | <p>December 2003</p> <p>December 2003</p> <p>June 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council</p> <p>Support Police, Backpackers Association</p> | Dependent on external funds |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure visitors are provided with information regarding strategies to maximize personal safety and theft | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pamphlet information developed in conjunction with Backpackers and tourist providers Costing for printing information sort through tourist operations Pamphlets distributed through tourist providers | <p>December 2003</p> <p>December 2003</p> <p>June 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council</p> <p>Support Police Backpackers Associations Other tourist providers</p> | Dependent on external funds |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Personal safety (cont'd) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, implement and evaluate a project to increase safety for youth who hitchhike especially young women | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding proposal developed and obtained for project Consultation with youth and backpackers undertaken Strategies for improved safety for hitchhikers implemented and evaluated | <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> <p>June 2005</p> | <p>Lead Council Support Police</p> | Dependent on external funds |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate feasibility of provision of lockers at Main Beach, Byron Bay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study undertaken in collaboration with Surf Life Saving Association Costing of lockers identified Recommendations for lockers presented to and accepted by council | <p>December 2003</p> <p>December 2003 June 2004</p> | <p>Lead Surf Life Saving Association, Council Support Police</p> | Dependent on external funds |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| Personal safety (cont'd) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, implement and evaluate a project to maintain and increase acceptance of diversity across the Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with a range of groups across the shire to develop strategies for improved safety Plan accepted by council to support diversity | <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council Support Byron Youth Service, ACON, Migrant Resource Centre</p> | <p>Within existing Council Resources</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with state government for increased police coverage across the area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data on crime and police coverage collated and presented to council Agreement from council to work with State government for additional police Lobbying by council to Minister for Police | <p>December 2004</p> <p>June 2005</p> <p>December 2004</p> | <p>Lead Council</p> | <p>Within existing Council Resources</p> |
| | <p>Support the implementation and maintenance of the Homeless Protocol</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual meetings held (or as required) between key stakeholders to evaluate the effectiveness of the Homeless Protocol. | <p>June 2003</p> | <p>Lead Council Support Police NRAHS BCCA</p> | <p>Within existing Council Resources</p> |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|--------------------|---|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Theft from cars | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, implement and evaluate a project to decrease theft from cars in conjunction with tourist operators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding proposal developed and obtained for project Consultation with tourism operators Strategies for reduced theft from cars implemented and evaluated | <p>December 2003</p> <p>June 2004</p> <p>December 2003</p> | <p>Lead Council</p> <p>Support Police, Backpackers Association, Tourist Operators</p> | Dependent on external funds |
| Property Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake review of safety at homes where break ins occur | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety checklist developed for homes where break-ins have occurred Review of safety undertaken by police at homes where break-ins have occurred Neighbours alerted in areas where break-ins have occurred | <p>December 2003</p> <p>December 2003</p> <p>June 2003</p> | <p>Lead Police</p> | Within existing Police Resources |

| Major Theme | Actions | Outputs | Time Frames | Responsibility | Resources |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Property Safety (cont'd) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a collaborative project with retailers to reduce theft from retail to address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Retail security ○ Alert and feedback system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety checklist developed for retailers where theft has occurred • Review of safety undertaken by police at retail premise where theft has occurred • Neighboring retailers alerted in areas where break-ins have occurred | <p>December 2003</p> <p>June 2003</p> <p>June 2003</p> | <p>Lead Police</p> <p>Support Council, Chamber of Commerce</p> | Dependent on external funds |
| Farm Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate Farm Safety Packs through Rural Cooperative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Safety Packs supplied to Rural Cooperative | December 2003 | <p>Lead Council</p> <p>Support Rural Cooperative</p> | Dependent on external funds |

Appendix 1 Community Consultation

1 Community Consultations

1.1 The Process

Consultation workshops with key community stakeholders were undertaken with in 4 communities:

- Bangalow
- Byron Bay
- Mullumbimby
- Ocean Shores

In addition, consultations were undertaken with representatives from

- Youth
- Older people

Key stakeholders from each community were identified initially identified by steering group members. Attempts were made to contact these stakeholders. When contacted stakeholders were asked to participate in the community consultation workshops in their respective communities or age groups. These stakeholders were also asked to identify initial key stakeholders from their community. Contact was made with these people and the process repeated until no new nominations were made.

Workshops were held in areas that were considered to provide suitable access for participants. Background information was provided to participants prior to the workshop. This information included:

- A summary of crime profile information for the shire
- A summary of council and other initiatives to address safety
- A summary of evidence regarding effective strategies for community safety

A nominal group process was applied at the workshop for developing all and priority community strengths/assets and concerns/issues. This process involved all participants articulating their views on strengths/assets and concerns/issues, until all issues were exhausted. These were recorded. Participants were then asked to rank the items from 1 to 5. Scores from each participant were entered into a computer program, which identified the group ranking in priority order.

Feedback was provided to participants at the workshop and in writing after the workshops regarding the group rankings.

In areas there was limited attendance at the workshop a different methodology was applied. Issues were identified by those attending the workshop. In addition contact was made with individuals who were unable to attend the workshop to identify additional issues.

Separate consultations were undertaken with representatives of the Aboriginal Community including

- Council Aboriginal Community Consultative Committee
- Representatives of Madhima Gulgan

1.2 Results – Bangalow

There was limited attendance at the Bangalow consultation workshop. Individual contact was made with key stakeholders following the consultation workshop to identify community strengths/assets or concerns/issues.

1.2.1 Community Strengths/Assets (not in priority order)

1. Lots of recreation areas
2. Strong sporting clubs
3. Safe, caring community
4. People generally watch out for each other
5. Good community support of events
6. Many people know each other

1.2.2 Community Concerns Issues (not in priority order)

1. Youth often on streets at night
2. Lack of youth activities
3. Break-ins in retail areas recently
4. Lack of police presence
5. Housing prices have increased significantly recently, potentially resulting in people being forced to move away
6. Lack of affordable housing
7. Rental Prices have increased significantly
8. No swimming pool
9. Lack of employment opportunities, especially for local young people
10. No areas for kids to skate
11. Lack of local services e.g. banking

1.3 Results - Byron Bay

The full results of the Byron Bay workshops are included in Appendix 1. The top 10 issues in priority order are presented for the Byron Bay workshop for strengths/assets and concerns/issues.

1.3.1 Community Strengths/Assets

1. Strong, outspoken and independent, but tolerant community
2. Accessibility and proximity of emergency services
3. Police presence
4. Long standing community networks
5. Capacity of community
6. Strong service interrelationships
7. Community can think outside the square
8. New Years Eve Committee

9. People's understanding
10. Laid back character and diversity

1.3.2 Community Concern/Issues

1. Traffic Congestion
2. Lack of recreational facilities for children and youth
3. Lack of funding to meet safety needs
4. Insufficient resources from tourism back into community
5. Lack of state government support for safety needs
6. Lack of financial resources in local council
7. Drug and alcohol use
8. Lack of affordable accommodation
9. Not enough police
10. Unemployment especially for youth

1.4 Results – Mullumbimby

The complete results of the Mullumbimby workshops are included in Appendix 1. The top 10 issues in priority order are presented for the Mullumbimby workshop for strengths/assets and concerns/issues.

1.4.1 Community Strengths/Assets

1. Infrastructure – police, courts, hospital, playing fields
2. Strong sense of community belonging
3. Not a tourist town – so people you see here live here
4. Residents have long term commitment to the town
5. History of and ongoing commitment to sharing and caring
6. Sense of looking out for each other
7. Partnerships between agencies
8. Diversity and tolerance
9. Commitment to personal and spiritual growth
10. Capacity to develop as a community

1.4.2 Community Concerns/Issues

1. Lack of permanent, secure employment
2. Lack of support for women and children for Domestic Violence
3. Lack of facilities for youth
4. Lack of public transport
5. Lack of affordable housing
6. Police presence
7. Lack of skills and resources in existing services in frontline resources
8. Lack of access to post school options
9. Police responsiveness at night

10. No venue for Mullumbimby Youth Activity Centre

1.5 Results – Ocean Shores

The complete results of the Ocean Shores workshop are included in Appendix 1. The top 10 issues in priority order are presented for the Ocean Shores workshop for strengths/assets and concerns/issues.

1.5.1 Community Strengths/Assets

1. Political and social awareness
2. Diverse and tolerant community
3. Healthy environment
4. Sense of community
5. Power of networks, not formal structures
6. Tremendous, untapped talent
7. Insistence on debunking myths
8. Community commitment
9. Affordable and accessible
10. Welcoming and willing to contribute to community

1.5.2 Community Concerns/Issues

1. Lack of accessibility to police and lack of response
2. Resources, services inequality across shire – focus on Byron Bay
3. Lack of road safety, especially related to speed
4. Loss of sense of community and personal power
5. Transport
6. Impact of tourism on environment
7. Policing is a political act
8. Lack of planning and management in infrastructure
 - Water
 - Sewerage
 - Lighting
 - Garbage
 - Parking
9. Lack of amenities e.g. toilets, sports fields
10. Lack of pathways, cycleways and footbridges

1.6 Results – Youth

The complete results of the Youth workshop are included in Appendix 1. The top 10 issues in priority order are presented for the Youth workshop for strengths/assets and concerns/issues.

1.6.1 Strengths/Assets

1. The young people – proactive, articulate and willing
2. People care for each other
3. Responsive to disengaged kids (specific to Mullumbimby High School)
4. Good interagency connections
5. Articulate community
6. Tolerance
7. Strong and socially aware youth
8. Generous business community
9. Community Spirit
10. Communities differ – diverse

1.6.2 Concerns/Issues

1. Poor transport
2. Limited facilities – nothing to do
3. Youth do not feel listened to resulting in feeling of disempowerment, resulting in lack of proactive youth to address issues
4. Systemic unemployment
5. Lack of post school options
6. Family disharmony resulting in youth under stress
7. Lack of alternatives for youth experiencing difficulties at school
8. Separated groups that don't interact – based on perceptions of differences
9. Lack of resources for community based services
10. Lack of sense of place and ownership for youth

1.7 Results – Older People

There was limited attendance at the workshop for Older People. Individual contact was made with key stakeholders following the consultation workshop to identify community strengths/assets or concerns/issues. All strengths and assets identified are reported. Common themes for older people were identified and reported.

1.7.1 Strengths/assets

1. Range of services available in the area
 - Supply of aged care packages, although demand is greater than supply
2. Strong community commitment for older people
3. Brunswick Community Centre provides good community access
4. Good level of tolerance between older people and people with alternative lifestyles
5. Overall diversity and tolerance

1.7.2 Concerns/Issues

1. Pedestrian and parking access
 - Inadequate numbers and limited visibility of pedestrian crossings
 - Poor access to parking especially disabled parking, especially near health services
2. Lack of affordable housing and impact of housing price increases
3. Not as much commitment to older people from more recent residents.
 - Higher proportion of women working, therefore not enough volunteers
4. Poor planning of infrastructure in the shire, inadequate for population increase
5. Lack of public transport, and transport connectedness across shire
6. Limited access to Community Centres especially Ocean Shores (Controlled use) and Byron Bay (cost)
7. Specific areas of concern
 - Walkway near Feros village is a security risk
 - Perception of fear results from youth riding bikes/skateboards on footpaths
 - Lack of policing of rules – e.g. crossing the streets in front of cars, bikes and skateboards on footpaths
 - High numbers of young people on streets especially at night, and poor parenting of adolescents
 - Poor security and lighting at ATM's (e.g. ATM at Bi-Lo at Ocean Shores)
 - Car Park at Ocean Shores generally lacks security
 - Poor street lighting or lighting obscured by foliage
8. Lack of activities for youth including intergenerational activities
9. Lack of return to community from tourist dollar and impact of tourists on infrastructure
10. General dirtiness of Byron Bay including
 - insufficient garbage bins and garbage pickups
 - Dirty Toilets
 - Dog Poo
11. Police Coverage, including beat police across shire is poor, especially Ocean Shores and Brunswick Heads
12. Drug and Alcohol Use, especially marijuana and alcohol use
13. Diverse and inadequate signage in towns

1.8 Consultation with the Aboriginal Community

1.8.1 Strengths

Not in priority order

- Art in the community is encouraged
- Bundjalung Men's Group – for young men involving Elders and young men
- Aboriginal Service providers

1.8.2 Issues

Not in priority order

- A number of health problems
- Lack of activities for Kids
- No affordable housing
- Poor Lighting
- Not enough Garbage bins
- Lack of educational opportunities
- Alcohol
- Violence and intimidation

1.8.3 Potential Strategies

- Improved activities for kids including
 - Pool tables
 - Skate park
- Improving educational opportunities including schooling such as home study – other options
- Opportunities to find inner skills, painting, dance, music – build links to elders, - respect for self and respect for elders
- Art, music, dance, cooking classes and include health issues for young mothers and provide childcare
- Koori specific day care (childcare),
- Tap into services
- Set up health committee to oversee one-stop shop