

ATTACHMENT 1

Crime Prevention Strategy

2011 - 2014

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Prevention Strategy was developed and written by Amira Vijayanayagam of Aquila Community Projects with consultation with the NSW Attorney General and contributions and assistance by Elizabeth Graves and Jacob Stewart.

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Strathfield Council
65 Homebush Rd, Strathfield NSW 2135
www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au
Phone: 9748 9999
Fax: 9748 9914

CONTENTS

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
2	CRIME PROFILE.....	5
2.1	What is the Crime Profile?	5
2.2	Local crime priorities - Robbery and Steal from Person.....	5
2.2.1	Research and Statistics	5
2.2.2	Robbery as a violent offence	6
2.2.3	Community, partnerships and engagement	7
2.3	How the priority crimes were selected	9
2.3.1	NSW Police advice and partnerships.....	9
2.3.2	Factors contributing to the offending rate.....	10
2.4	Situational Analysis.....	11
2.4.1	Travel.....	11
2.4.2	Population.....	12
2.4.3	Population growth and household type – more people using the environment	14
2.4.4	Design and maintenance of the environment - lighting	16
2.5	Stakeholders.....	20
2.5.1	Partnerships and Engagement	20
2.5.2	Program, communication and marketing strategies – consultation outcomes	22
3	ACTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION.....	25
4	MONITORING AND EVALUATING.....	31
4.1	Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart Forums	31
4.1.1	Monitoring	31
4.1.2	Evaluation and data collection	31
4.2	Strathfield Robbery Prevention Initiative	31
4.2.1	Monitoring	31
4.2.2	Evaluation and data collection	32
5	CRIME PREVENTION ACTION PLAN.....	33

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strathfield Council plays a pivotal role in the prevention of crime in the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) because when the area experiences incidents of crime and the community has a fear about being safe when going about their daily business it impacts on the whole community both financially and psychologically.

Strathfield Council has developed a Crime Prevention Strategy that identifies local crime priorities to be addressed in the 2011 - 2014 Crime Prevention Strategy. The major crimes that are addressed in this plan are robbery and steal from person offences. This plan has been created in recognition of the NSW Government's priority to reduce the incidence of violent crime by 10% over the next five years.

From June 2009 – June 2010 there were 256 incidences of robbery that occurred within the Inner Western statistical division, of these over 45% occurred within the Strathfield LGA. This is consistent with a stable 36 month trend that has left Strathfield LGA ranking number one for robbery offences amongst 141 LGAs with populations greater than 3000.

In terms of location of offending 70.9% of all robberies that occurred within the Strathfield LGA in 2009 took place in an outdoor public place. There has been an average annual increase of 7.7% for robbery in the Strathfield LGA. This provides evidence to support prioritisation of robbery within the area.

When examining statistics of steal from person it can be seen that a priority must also be given to this crime. Of the 242 incidences within the Inner Western statistical division from June 2009 – June 2010 over 46% occurred within the Strathfield LGA. This has meant that Strathfield LGA is now ranked number two for this crime.

Steal from person crimes occur predominantly at retail/wholesale premises (43.3%), with public transport facilities (22.8%) and outdoor public places (21.3%) ranking close behind. For this reason Strathfield Plaza, Strathfield train station and the NSW State Transit Authority have been identified as important stakeholders for the purpose of this 2011-2014 Crime Prevention Strategy.

This plan has identified several key strategies that may be implemented to help address issues of crime in the Strathfield LGA, they are:

- Improved lighting in hot spots within public areas
- Early intervention in the form of education forums
- Target hardening
- Increasing levels of reporting
- CCTV installations on trial period
- Resource kit which will outline ways members of the community can help limit their chances of becoming victims of robbery and steal from person.
- Community engagement and consultation
- Business engagement and education

The strategies that have been identified in this plan identify areas of Council responsibility but acknowledge that to successfully achieve and deliver a safer community, forming of partnerships with other councils, government agencies and the non-government sectors, both non-profit and commercial, is necessary.

2 CRIME PROFILE

2.1 What is the Crime Profile?

Strathfield Council has developed a Crime Profile that identifies local crime priorities to be addressed in the 2011 – 2014 three year crime prevention strategy. By identifying issues impacting the community, Council is better placed to take action in making practical available tools and implementing effective crime prevention programs that can be useful and accessible to all members of the community.

A comprehensive crime profile is achieved by:

- Clearly identifying local crime priorities;
- Analysing situational data and intelligence related to those crimes (i.e. hot spot, priority day and time, and offending pattern information);
- Conducting a detailed situational analysis that takes into account environmental and structural factors that contribute to levels of offending in the area, and;
- Performing thorough stakeholder analysis and consultation.

2.2 Local crime priorities - Robbery and Steal from Person

Robbery and steal from person offences are identified as local crime priorities and are addressed by Strathfield Council's 2011 - 2014 Crime Prevention Strategy. These priorities have been established as a result of careful research and statistical analysis¹, key stakeholder consultation, and in recognition of the NSW Government's priority to reduce the incidence of violent crime by 10% over the next five years².

2.2.1 Research and Statistics

Statistics used for the purposes of identifying local priority crime identification are taken from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) June 2010 Quarterly Update report³. These statistics allow for a level of comparative analysis that provide the necessary context and meaning to what otherwise might appear to be arbitrary numeric values. For example, a comparative analysis of rates of offending within the Strathfield LGA can be made with that of the broader Inner Western Sydney statistical divisionⁱ as well as the NSW rateⁱⁱ. This provides an opportunity to capture important information about categories of offending which are occurring at a rate not typical of these larger geographical regions.

For instance, robbery without a weapon, robbery with a firearm, and robbery with a weapon not a firearm, are recorded at ratios of 1.7, 2.0, and 1.6 the NSW rate respectively over the 12 months to June 2010 for the Inner Western Sydney statistical division. Strathfield LGA is reported to have experienced the same categories of crime at ratios of 4.3, 2.0, and 3.6 respectively. This would indicate that reported rate of robbery without a weapon and robbery with a weapon not a firearm offences is high within the Strathfield LGA relative to the broader Inner Western Sydney statistical division, providing some evidence that prioritisation of robbery is in the best interests of the Strathfield LGA community.

¹ See Table 1 for key statistics used

² NSW Government, NSW State Plan 2010, Chapter 7, p. 55.

See: <http://www.stateplan.nsw.gov.au>

³ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2010, New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics: Quarterly Update June 2010, Statistical Report Series.

Similarly, the Inner Western Sydney statistical division is recorded to have received parity (ratio of 1.0) with the NSW rate in relation to incidences of steal from person crimes in the 12 months to June 2010. However, Strathfield LGA is reported to have more than doubled that ratio at 2.4, providing evidence that steal from person crimes should also form a part of the 2011 – 2014 priority crime prevention focus.

Further analysis can be conducted by comparing the total number of incidences reported within the Inner Western statistical division with that of Strathfield LGA. Of 256 incidences of robbery that occurred within the Inner Western statistical division in the 12 months to June 2010, 116 occurred within the Strathfield LGA (over 45%). This is consistent with a stable 36 month trend that has left Strathfield LGA ranking number one for robbery offencesⁱⁱⁱ amongst 141 LGAs with populations greater than 3000.

A similar trend can be found with regard to offences falling in the steal from person category. Of the 242 incidences of steal from person offences recorded within the Inner Western statistical division over the 12 months to June 2010, 113 occurred within the Strathfield LGA (over 46%). This is consistent with a stable trend over a 36 month period that has left Strathfield LGA with a ranking of number two in the year 2009. Previously Strathfield has ranked four and three in 2007 and 2008 respectively for steal from person crimes.

With respect to the location of offending, 70.9% (83 incidences) of all robberies that occurred within the Strathfield LGA in the year 2009 took place at an outdoor public place. The remaining were perpetrated in a retail / wholesale environment (10.3%, 12 incidences); on public transport facilities (6.8%, 8 incidences); at a car park (2.6%, 3 incidences); at personal services premises (1.7%, 2 incidences); inside a financial institution (1.7%, 2 incidences); at adult entertainment venues (1.7%, 2 incidences); at a residential dwelling (1.7%, 2 incidences), at a licensed premises (1.7%, 2 incidences); and within recreational facilities (0.9%, 1 incidence)⁴. As a result, an emphasis has been placed on street robbery throughout this 2011 – 2014 Crime Prevention Strategy.

Steal from person crimes occur predominantly at retail / wholesale premises (43.3%, 55 incidences), with public transport facilities (22.8%, 29 incidences) and outdoor / public place (21.3%, 27 incidences) ranking close behind⁵. For this reason, Strathfield Plaza, Strathfield train station, and the NSW State Transit Authority have been identified as important stakeholders for the purposes of this 2011 – 2014 Crime Prevention Strategy (see section 1.4).

2.2.2 Robbery as a violent offence

Robbery is by definition a violent crime. The Common Law definition provided in *Smith v Desmond* [1965] provides an explanation:

“The essence of a robbery is that violence is done or threatened to the person [...] who stands between the offender and the property stolen, in order to overcome that person’s resistance and so to oblige him to part with the property; in other words, the victim must be compelled by force or fear to submit to the theft”⁶.

⁴ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Specific Crime Information Tool: Recorded Criminal Incidents Occurring in Strathfield Local Government Area in the Year 2009 by Premises Type and Offence, reference: 2011-351002-3, 03 April 2011

⁵ Ibid

⁶ *Smith v Desmond* [1965] AC 960 at 985–987, 997–998; (1965) 49 Cr App R 246 at 260–263, 275–276

The NSW State Plan⁷ lists the reduction of violent crime as one of its four 'Keeping People Safe' priorities and targets. Through this 2011 – 2014 Crime Prevention Strategy, Strathfield Council takes the opportunity to join the NSW Government in working toward its target.

On average, there has been a 2.5% increase in violent offences within the Inner Western Sydney metropolitan statistical division in the 60 months to June 2010⁸. Despite this increase the Inner Western rate remains below that of NSW with a reported ratio of 0.7%⁹. Comparatively, an average annual increase of 7.7%¹⁰ within the Strathfield LGA over the same period has caused Strathfield to reach parity with the NSW rate, providing further evidence to support prioritisation of robbery and steal from person offences within the area.

2.2.3 Community, partnerships and engagement

While the appropriate use of statistics can play a powerful role in enabling Strathfield Council to identify local crime priorities, due recognition of situational factors that impact those statistics can provide important opportunities to identify and engage with community and organisational stakeholders to bring about successful initiatives. Council has been bolstered in its capacity to impact robbery and steal from person crimes through a thorough process of key stakeholder identification and consultation and the resultant relationships and partnerships (see section 1.4 for further detail and discussion).

⁷ NSW Government, NSW State Plan 2010, Chapter 7, p. 55.

See: <http://www.stateplan.nsw.gov.au>

⁸ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 'New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics: Quarterly Update June 2010', *Statistical Report Series*, p. 5.

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid, p. 7

Table 1 – Key Statistics used in statistical analysis	Number of recorded criminal incidences for major offences over the 12 months to June 2010			Crime trend over 36 month period to June 2010		Crime ranking for the Strathfield LGA**	
	Strathfield LGA ¹¹	Inner Western Statistical Division ¹²	NSW ¹³	Strathfield LGA ¹⁴	Inner Western Statistical Division ¹⁵	BOCSAR Ranking 2009	BOCSAR Ranking 2008
Assault - domestic violence related	106	420	25,978	Stable	Up	99	86
Assault - non-domestic violence related	203	642	40,165	Stable	Stable	65	57
Sexual assault / Offences	13	60	4,452	NC*	Stable	90	100
Indecent assault	29	102	5,424	Stable	Stable	N/A	N/A
Robbery without a weapon	83	166	3,749	Stable	Stable	1 ¹⁶	1 ¹⁷
Robbery with a firearm	4	21	400	NC ^{iv}	NC		
Robbery with a weapon and not a firearm	29	69	1,592	Stable	Down		
Break and enter dwelling	368	979	41,138	Stable	Down	20	14
Break and enter non-dwelling	59	236	17,718	Down	Down	120	97
Motor vehicle theft	194	664	21,772	Down	Stable	10	6
Steal from motor vehicle	345	1,333	45,859	Down	Down	22	6
Steal from retail store	81	465	20,610	Stable	Stable	80	64
Steal from dwelling	98	357	21,597	Stable	Down	104	102
Steal from person	113	242	9,296	Stable	Down	2 ¹⁸	3 ¹⁹
Fraud	421	1,630	35,842	Stable	Up	2	3
Malicious damage to property	348	1,506	96,019	Stable	Down	113	103

¹¹ Ibid No. 10, p. 23

¹² Ibid, p. 17

¹³ Ibid, p. 15

¹⁴ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Crime Trends Tool – Strathfield, reference: 2011-349588-4, 27 March 2011

¹⁵ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Crime Trends Tool – Inner Western Sydney Statistical Subdivision, reference: 2011-349588-3, 27 March 2011

¹⁶ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Local Government Area Ranking Report - Robbery, reference: 2010-308503-7, 9 November 2010

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Local Government Area Ranking Report – Steal from Person, reference: 2010-308503-10, 9 November 2010

¹⁹ Ibid

2.3 How the priority crimes were selected

2.3.1 NSW Police advice and partnerships

Advice received from the NSW Police Force (Flemington Local Area Command) has supplemented publicly available statistics to assist in selecting priority crimes and related preventative strategies. Specifically, hot spot, priority time and day, and situational information has been received and used for the purposes of developing this Crime Prevention Strategy. Table 3 below provides a summary of these factors. Additionally, the Situational Analysis (outlined in the section below) was informed by careful consultation with the Flemington Local Area Command.

Table 3 – Summary of advice received from the NSW Police

Offence	Hot spots	Priority times	Victim / Offender	Situation
Robbery	1. Strathfield (streets west of the CBD) 2. Homebush (The Crescent)	12:00am – 6:00am 6:00pm – 12:00am	Opportunity driven / determined	Robbery against commuters walking from train stations
Steal from person	1. Strathfield (streets west of the CBD) 2. Homebush (The Crescent)	12:00am – 6:00am 6:00pm – 12:00am	Opportunity driven / determined	Robbery against commuters walking from train stations

Robbery and steal from person crimes have long been a priority for both Strathfield Council and the Flemington Local Area Command. In recent years the NSW Police Force (Flemington Local Area Command) has worked together with Strathfield Council to increase public awareness and education around the issue of robbery and steal from person crime prevention. This partnership approach has resulted in some important subject-specific programs. Key stakeholders have been engaged to cement programs' reach within target groups and improve relevance of the material and mode of delivery for the target demographic. The result has been a highly popular umbrella campaign with heavy backing from influential community-entrenched stakeholders such as NSW TAFE, the Smith Family, Australian Catholic University, and various Consulates.

Work is continuing in order to match the ongoing demand for the Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart seminars across educational institutions in Sydney after the success of initial trials in early 2010. The innovative model emphasises positive and interactive communication between youth and Police Officers on the topic of robbery and steal from person crime prevention with the aim of achieving a practical understanding of the topic as a whole. Discussion points are addressed with the expectation that a more in-depth level of understanding can affect target hardening behaviour better than a simplistic style of information share. The Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart model was successful in attracting funding from the Department of Justice and Attorney General in 2011, providing resources necessary to broaden the program's scope to include high schools within the area and meet a growing demand within the community. A next-generation approach is proposed in this plan that will expand the program even further to incorporate new communication strategies and capture an even broader cross-section of the target demographic.

Strathfield Council welcomes any opportunity to partner with the NSW Police Force in its efforts toward robbery and steal from person crime prevention, as well as any other crime reduction agenda that can positively impact the Strathfield LGA community. Dialogue and close partnerships between Strathfield Council and the NSW Police will be maintained through continued involvement in the Strathfield Crime Prevention Project Committee and Key Stakeholders meetings. By maintaining a flexible approach to a targeted strategy (see section 4 of this document) in carrying out its crime prevention initiatives and in its partnership activities with the NSW Police Force, Council will be placed to contribute to a Problem Orientated Approach^v to crime prevention within the LGA.

2.3.2 Factors contributing to the offending rate

Situational factors unique to the Strathfield LGA (and neighbouring Council areas) that contribute to the occurrence of robbery and steal from person crime opportunities are summarised in the table below. Careful consideration of these informed the situational analysis, providing sound foundations for Council's priority offence selection and the corresponding strategies adopted within this plan.

Table 4 – Situational factors unique to Strathfield LGA (and neighbouring LGAs)

Factors	Summary
1) Travel: train station and bus interchange (transportation hub) 2) Population factors	Opportunities for crime impacted by population traversing through Strathfield LGA, Strathfield population factors, and by residents' travelling behaviour. Potential crime targets and environmental factors are an important focus area for crime prevention measures.
3) Design and maintenance of hot spot area	Wide tree-lined streets with obstructed lines of sight and obscured lighting provide can contribute to an opportunity rich environment for robbery and steal from person crimes. An increase in medium density housing impacts both the demographic profile and common routine activities of residents, which in turn affects the proportion and availability of 'high-risk' targets to would be offenders within the hot spot area.

2.4 Situational Analysis

Hot spots for robbery and steal from person crimes occur in a 1km radius around the Strathfield train station and bus interchange (see Figure 1 and 2 below). Advice received from the NSW Police Force indicates that these crimes are mostly opportunity driven and are perpetrated against commuters travelling home from the transport hub area between the hours of 12.00am and 6.00am, and 6.00pm and 12.00am.

Travel and population factors impact opportunities for robbery and steal from person crimes as do the number of people using the environment and the design and maintenance of the environment. Each of these items are addressed in the sections below.

2.4.1 Travel

The Strathfield LGA houses one of the most important transport hubs in Sydney. This factor is significant with respect to incidences of robbery and steal from person crimes occurring within the identified hot spot area. Howard (2009) found in his study that street robbery offenders committed a large proportion of their offences “along the transit lines in neighbouring LGA’s”²⁰ and highlighted the fact that one LGA, which represented a major transport hub, was targeted specifically by offenders from other LGAs²¹. This research is consistent with advice received from the NSW Police (Flemington Local Area Command) regarding circumstances surrounding incidences of robbery occurring within the Strathfield LGA.

As might be expected, “Street robberies associated with public transportation are more prevalent in areas like larger cities, where its availability and use are common”²². Strathfield LGA is well recognised for its important place within the Sydney public transport system and is a well sought after resident location for many wanting to use the public transport facilities. The routine activities^{vi} of many living in the area and using the facilities will therefore be influenced by the location and operation of public transport facilities - a factor that must be taken into account when considering ways to impact opportunities for crime.

Transport statistics indicate that Strathfield residents travel for seven main reasons. In order of popularity these are:

- 1) to commute
- 2) social / recreation reasons
- 3) to serve a passenger
- 4) Shopping
- 5) education or child care reasons
- 6) work related business
- 7) personal business²³

This provides a ‘broad strokes’ transportation profile of the Strathfield LGA with respect to its populous’ movements. Associated risk factors may be deduced through

²⁰ Howard, C (10 & 11 December 2009) *Managing Communities and Crime; Using a case study in street level robbery to redefine the investigative role*, paper presented at the Criminal Investigations Workshop, University House, Canberra, p. 5.

See: http://ceps.anu.edu.au/events/criminal_investigations_workshop/papers/Craig%20Howard%20-%20Managing%20communities%20and%20crime.pdf

²¹ Ibid

²² Monk, K; Heinonen, J; Eck, J, ‘Street Robbery’, *Problem-Oriented Guides for Police, Problem-Specific Guides Series No. 59*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, p. 5.

²³ NSW Government, Transport and Infrastructure (Transport Data Centre), *Key Transport Indicators (a) by Local Government Area of Residence (LGA), 2007, Sydney Greater Metropolitan Area, 2009*, Electronic publication No. S2009/01.

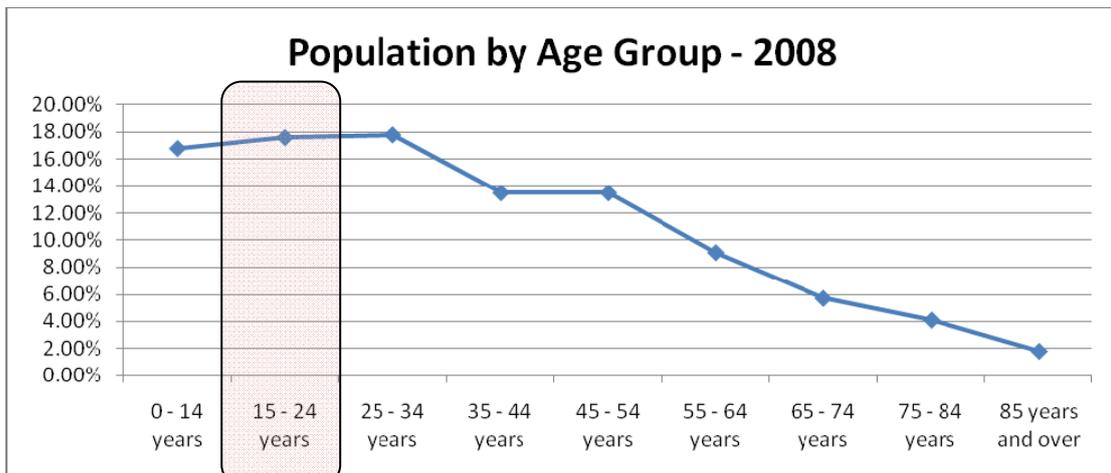
appropriate analysis. For example, with 10% of travel being by train, 7% by bus, and 19% by walking only²⁴, approximately 36% of trips made can be expected to involve residents traversing through the public areas on foot as part of their routine activities on any one day.

From an environmental, health, and indeed a crime prevention perspective, a high level of movement occurring through the local public areas on foot and via public transport is something to be celebrated and encouraged. However, it is also important to recognise that “[t]he most common mode of transport for victims of robbery offences [is] walking”²⁵ and address factors that can impact this truism in order to reduce the incidences of robbery and steal from person crimes within the local area. When considered in the context of key elements of the population profile, the number of people using the environment, and the physical environment in which these trips occur, risk factors that can be addressed are highlighted.

2.4.2 Population

2.4.2.1 Age

Persons between the ages of 15 to 24 years are at greatest risk of being robbed²⁶. Official statistics indicate that at 2008 17.6% of the total population in the Strathfield LGA were aged 15 to 24 years²⁷. The statistics for the greater NSW area in the same period show that Strathfield LGA has a much larger population of persons within the high-risk age bracket than the State average (13.9%²⁸). The graph below depicts the Strathfield LGA population by age group (2008), illustrating the proportion of residents falling within the 15 – 24 age category.



Graph created using data derived from Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Regional Profile: Strathfield (A) (Local Government Area), Classification Code: LGA17100, 29/4/2010

Highest risk of being a victim of robbery²⁹

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Ibid No. 20, p. 6

²⁶ Australian Institute of Criminology, 'Robbery Victimisation', *Crime Facts Info*, No. 150, 12 June 2007

²⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *National Regional Profile: Strathfield (A) (Local Government Area)*, 29/4/2010

²⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *National Regional Profile: New South Wales*, 12 Nov 2010 (see: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@nrp.nsf/Latestproducts/1Population/People12005-2009?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=1&issue=2005-2009>).

²⁹ Ibid, No. 26

Some literature indicates that offenders of street robbery crimes also tend to fall within this age bracket³⁰, which will likely contribute to the rate of offending in an area characterised by a high proportion of 15 – 24 year olds.

As a result of this first level of analysis, a heavy emphasis has been placed on communicating, engaging with, and actively involving 15 – 24 year olds in the programs and initiatives proposed by this plan (see section 4).

A second level of analysis focuses on the routine activities of people falling within the 15 – 24 year age bracket, especially in relation to travel (although other demographics are also considered) in order to identify how the opportunity for crime can be best impacted. An analysis of factors surrounding population growth patterns and indicators, resident's occupation, and environmental factors is outlined below (using available statistics and research) in order to build a picture of how an impact on robbery and steal from person crimes can be accomplished.

2.4.2.2 Occupation

Occupation can be used as one indicator of the type of personal property likely to be carried when travelling and the time travel is likely to take place. Information received from the Police suggests that students and professionals travelling to and from the main transport hub within the Strathfield LGA will often possess and sometimes carry in full view of others 'CRAVED'^{vii} items and will often be travelling at 'hot times'. This can contribute to the opportunity for crime in so far as a target item (such as a laptop, iPhone, or other similar CRAVED item) is present and, when combined with other factors (such as low levels of surveillance by capable guardians), produces a situation where risks (of detection and apprehension) to the offender are perceived to be relatively low and the benefits relatively high³¹.



“Distracted pedestrians with conspicuous CRAVED items make good robbery targets”¹.

³⁰ Ibid, No 22 p. 3

³¹ NSW Attorney General's Department (2008) *Rational Choice: crime prevention* [Fact sheet], retrieved from: [http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/cpd/ll_cpdiv.nsf/vwFiles/RationalChoiceFactsheet_April2008.pdf/\\$file/RationalChoiceFactsheet_April2008.pdf](http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/cpd/ll_cpdiv.nsf/vwFiles/RationalChoiceFactsheet_April2008.pdf/$file/RationalChoiceFactsheet_April2008.pdf), cited March 2011; NSW Attorney General's Department (2008) *Routine activity theory: crime prevention* [Fact sheet], retrieved from [http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/cpd/ll_cpdiv.nsf/vwFiles/RoutineActivityFactsheet_April2008.pdf/\\$file/RoutineActivityFactsheet_April2008.pdf](http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/cpd/ll_cpdiv.nsf/vwFiles/RoutineActivityFactsheet_April2008.pdf/$file/RoutineActivityFactsheet_April2008.pdf)

29.7% of employed persons within the Strathfield LGA identified themselves as professionals at the time of the 2006 census, while an additional 12.4% identified with the title 'manager' when asked to describe their occupational role³². It is expected that a high proportion of these carry CRAVED items either for work related reasons or as a means of affordable recreation (utilised during daily travel) and will travel at times common to many who hold a '9 – 5' job.

Similarly, students are identified by Police as a group that often carry CRAVED items for the sake of education and/or recreation. Strathfield Council's Social Plan tells us that "Strathfield is considered a regional centre for educational services"³³ and that "the number of people now attending tertiary study is higher than Sydney average"³⁴. Students travel extensively both within and through the Strathfield LGA. Some public high schools attract students from outside the LGA boundaries and the many private colleges within the area cater to students from across the larger inner western geographical region³⁵.

Behavioural factors that increase the risk of victimisation are addressed by crime prevention programs outlined in section 4.

2.4.3 Population growth and household type – more people using the environment

Population growth can also have an important impact on crime opportunities³⁶ and therefore the ways in which crime prevention initiatives should be approached. Specifically, an analysis of the Strathfield LGA has shown that the composition of the newly introduced population (i.e. age, occupation etc, as discussed above), the way in which population growth manifests within the area (i.e. as long term or short term residents), and the way in which the local area accommodates / attracts the population growth (i.e. type of accommodation and facilities) can be instrumental.

The Strathfield Council Social Plan 2009 - 2014 sights a recent upsurge in population, making reference to a boost of 977 in the period between 2006 to 2007, which represented "a 2.9% increase, well above the Sydney average of 1.1%"³⁷. According to the Social Plan, this population growth has been driven by the Compact City Policy adopted by the NSW Government³⁸ which provided opportunity for a "...large increase in the building of [...] medium to high density developments"³⁹. These developments, and the corresponding population increases, are occurring "in the town centres and transport hubs of Homebush, Homebush West and Strathfield Town Centre"⁴⁰ which lie at the heart of robbery and steal from person crime hot spots (see Figures 1 and 2).

Growth in populations living in medium to high density housing will impact crime opportunities on one level simply because there are more people using the surrounding environment. Research suggests that:

³² Ibid No. 27

³³ Strathfield Council (2009) 'Social Plan 2009 – 2014', p. 31

³⁴ Ibid, p. 36

³⁵ Ibid, p. 31

³⁶ Braithwaite, Population Growth and Crime, *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, March 1, 1975 Vol. 8, No. 1 57-60

³⁷ Ibid, p. 21

³⁸ Ibid, p. 73

³⁹ Ibid, p. 35

⁴⁰ Ibid, p. 35

“People living in home units are more reliant on open space, recreation and community facilities due to reductions and restrictions of living space and minimal access to private open spaces”⁴¹.

More people spending more time in open, public spaces equates to more opportunities for robbery and steal from person crime – especially if individuals are carrying CRAVED items, are located within crime hot spots, are travelling during ‘hot times’, and are engaged in behaviour that make them ‘high risk’ targets.

2.4.3.1 Transient Populations

There is some evidence to suggest that the Strathfield LGA is increasingly popular amongst a transient population most likely seeking the convenience of proximity to public transport amenities and educational institutions. Census statistics reveal that “[j]ust on 90% of respondents [between the ages of 12 and 24] have lived in the area for less than 5 years”⁴². The Strathfield Council Social Plan 2009 – 2014 explains the phenomena further:

“Strathfield has increasingly highly mobile populations of people moving in and out of the area frequently and living in Strathfield LGA for short durations. The increasing mobile populations are due to increased numbers of new dwellings creating supply of housing for new residents and the emerging groups of young people, generally students, who are likely to live in Strathfield LGA for short periods. There has been a large increase in rental property particularly around in town centres such as Homebush, Homebush West and Strathfield, which in Homebush West accounts for over 50% of the suburb. Rental agreements are often short and renters can find it difficult to maintain stability and certainty in their living arrangements”⁴³.

Due consideration must be given to how this transient population can be properly engaged and actively included in Council’s crime prevention programs. Incidences of crime against any member of the population can have consequences for the wider geographical area and the people within it⁴⁴. It is therefore in the best interests of the entire LGA to ensure all possible measures are taken to include and engage with anyone residing within the area at any one time for the purposes of deterring and preventing crime, regardless of their transient status. What is known, however, is that “...mobile populations are less likely to participate to the same extent in community building activities as long term residents”⁴⁵. The level of social capital that can be drawn upon for the purposes of building and executing a community based crime prevention project is therefore likely diminished, at least to an extent, by the presence of a transient population. Due consideration of this factor (and others) has been instrumental in the development of a three year plan characterised by strategies and programs that are 1) easily accessible, 2) are complimentary to and symbiotic with the existing routine activities of residents, and 3) are reflective of and appropriate to the level of education of the target audience (to encourage a higher level of interest).

2.4.3.2 Isolation

Strathfield Council’s Social Plan 2009 - 2014 identifies isolation as an important item to be addressed. Isolation is also highly relevant to the topic of robbery and steal from person crime prevention.

⁴¹ Ibid, p. 36

⁴² Ibid No. 34, p. 71

⁴³ Ibid, p. 37

⁴⁴ See Garofalo, ‘The Fear of Crime: Causes and Consequences’, *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, Vol. 72, No. 2, Summer - 1981, p. 839-857

⁴⁵ Ibid No. 34, p. 38

The phenomenon of isolation within the Strathfield LGA is, to a degree, symptomatic of the physical environment in which many residents live. Research produced on the sense of community felt by persons living in medium and high rise developments found that in these living environments there was “[a] greater lack of support from neighbours”⁴⁶. In addition, it was found that “[f]or parents there is a weaker sense of being part of their neighbourhood than other parents, as measured by the ‘sense of community scale’⁴⁷.

Other causes of isolation identified by the Strathfield Council Social Plan include:

- Language barriers
- Living alone
- Disability
- Poor access to public transport
- Weakened links with social networks (especially for older people)

In his analysis of offending profiles against identified enablers and drivers for street level robbery, Howard (2009) was able to produce “a risk profile for the location around offending, victims, and offenders”⁴⁸. Location risk factors identified included: 1) “low sense of community”, 2) “levels of community withdrawal and disengagement”, 3) “increasing urbanisation”, and 4) “rapid population change”⁴⁹. He also states that:

“[a]reas of risk are points of travel between destinations where the individuals are on their own because they do not travel in groups. The “between destinations” profile results in an increasing number of individuals who already experience low social contact being on their own and isolated”⁵⁰.

This 2011 – 2014 Crime Prevention Strategy takes careful notice of this research and of its application to Strathfield LGA. As a response, initiatives are proposed in section 4 that aim to provide strong and attractive avenues for networking and community participation which also serve to deter criminal activity by extending guardianship over public areas and assisting natural surveillance⁵¹.

2.4.4 Design and maintenance of the environment - lighting

The physical environment offered by some areas within the Strathfield Local Government Area is reflective of its affluent history. Wide tree-lined streets and large attractive homes are reminiscent of a suburb with a long and prosperous history. Newer apartments in the area are symptomatic of Strathfield LGAs growing level of popularity with students and young families seeking to live in a location close to transport, schools, shopping, and other amenities. The surrounding environment is serviced by street lighting that, from a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) point of view, requires attention.

⁴⁶ Brownlee, H. (1993) ‘Who Needs Neighbours?: Views from the outer and inner suburbs’, Family Matters, No.35, September, Australian Institute of Family Studies, Melbourne cited in Strathfield Council (2009) Social Plan 2009 - 2014, p. 73

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid No. 20, p. 10

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ NSW Attorney General's Department (2008) *Situational Crime Prevention* [Fact sheet], retrieved from: [http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/cpd/ll_cpdiv.nsf/vwFiles/SituationalCrimePreventionFactsheet_2008.pdf/\\$file/SituationalCrimePreventionFactsheet_2008.pdf](http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/cpd/ll_cpdiv.nsf/vwFiles/SituationalCrimePreventionFactsheet_2008.pdf/$file/SituationalCrimePreventionFactsheet_2008.pdf), cited March 2011

There is some evidence to suggest that improved lighting in crime hot spots within public areas can be effective in reducing incidences of criminal activity⁵². The Campbell Systemic Review on the topic outlines the theory and rationale behind lighting improvement for the purposes of crime prevention:

“There are two main theories of why improved street lighting may cause a reduction in crime. The first suggests that improved lighting leads to increased surveillance of potential offenders (both by improving visibility and by increasing the number of people on the street) and hence to increased deterrence of potential offenders. The second suggests that improved lighting signals community investment in the area and that the area is improving, leading to increased community pride, community cohesiveness, and informal social control. The first theory predicts decreases in crime especially during the hours of darkness, while the second theory predicts decreases in crime during both daytime and night-time”⁵³.

It is Strathfield Council’s goal to achieve the latter by interlinking a large-scale lighting improvement project with programs aimed at extending guardianship, thereby increasing the risks associated with offending⁵⁴ (see section 4).

Lighting improvements have, in the past, resulted in a marked reduction in numbers of robbery and steal from person crimes committed in hot spot locations within the Strathfield LGA. Following a community safety audit conducted in March 2006, recommendations were made for improved lighting in Elva Street and Beresford Road – at the time one of the most problematic areas for these types of crime. Implementation of the recommended improvements resulted in a 78% decrease in incidences of robbery and steal from person crimes within the immediate vicinity of the lighting⁵⁵. However, overall rates of offending have remained constant with approximately one robbery occurring each night within the Strathfield area, providing an indication that a larger scale lighting improvement is needed. Geographical displacement is a consideration that must be taken into account and a phenomenon to be avoided in future projects.

In order to avoid geographical displacement careful consideration has been given to hot spots within the area – i.e. why they exist, how those areas are being used, and why they are being used in that manner. Results of this analysis indicate that a large-scale lighting improvement is required across the one kilometre radius surrounding Strathfield train station in order to deter criminal activity while also preventing hot spots from simply jumping to another nearby location. Commuters travelling to and from Strathfield station by foot will be subject to a much greater level of community surveillance, raising the risks of detection for would-be offenders and therefore making the ‘opportunity’ to offend much less attractive. The environment outside of the one kilometre radius is less target-rich as it is less common for persons outside of this radius to travel toward or away from the train station on foot during ‘hot times’.

⁵² NSW Attorney General’s Department, ‘Research Review: Street Lighting and Crime Reduction’, p. 2 - retrieved from:

[http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/cpd/ll_cpdiv.nsf/vwFiles/StreetLightingAndCrimeReduction.pdf/\\$file/StreetLightingAndCrimeReduction.pdf](http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/cpd/ll_cpdiv.nsf/vwFiles/StreetLightingAndCrimeReduction.pdf/$file/StreetLightingAndCrimeReduction.pdf), cited March 2011

⁵³ Welsh & Farrington, Effects of improved street lighting on crime, Campbell Systematic Reviews, 2008 : 13, p. 2

⁵⁴ Ibid No. 52

⁵⁵ Police Statistics provided to Council for the purposes of this crime prevention plan

Figure 1

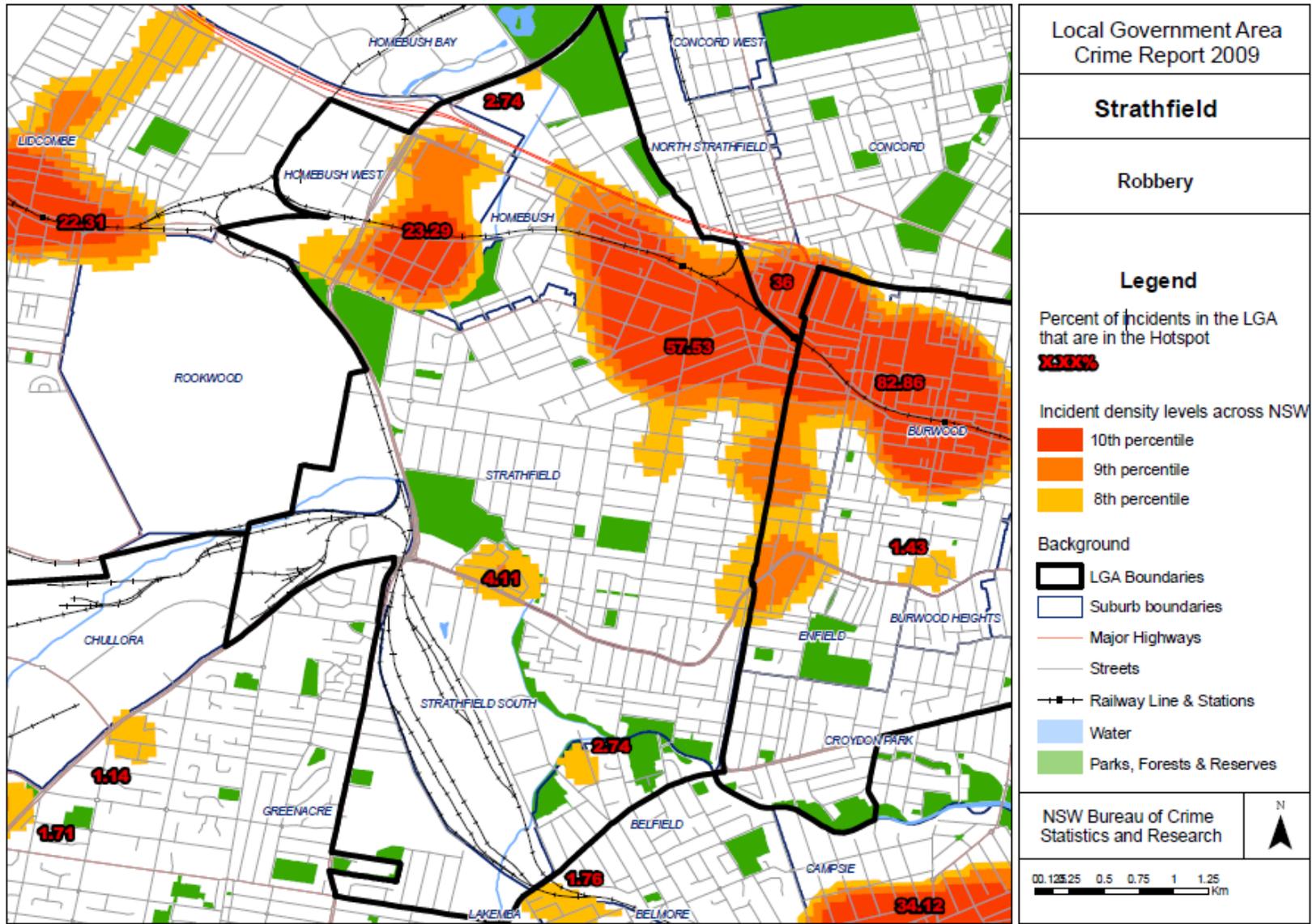
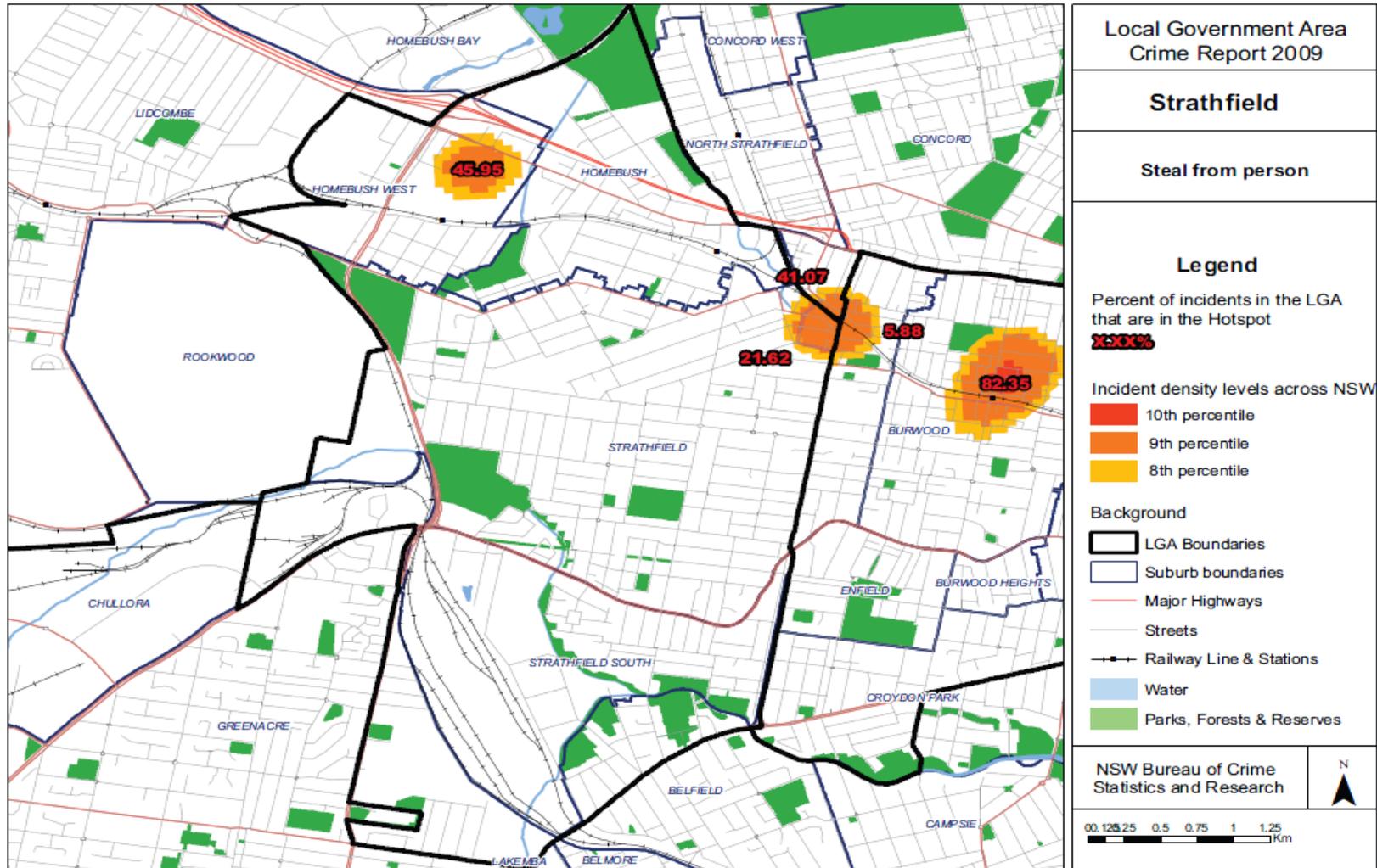


Figure 2



2.5 Stakeholders

Stakeholders identified and consulted with for the purposes of this 2011 – 2014 Crime Prevention Strategy include:

- The Strathfield (LGA) community
- NSW Police Force (Flemington Local Area Command)
- Burwood Council
- NRMA
- State Transit Authority
- EnergyAustralia
- Australian Catholic University
- Australian Catholic University student population
- Strathfield Chamber of Commerce
- Heart Foundation
- Local places of worship
- Strathfield train station

2.5.1 Partnerships and Engagement

Strathfield Council continues to work closely with the NSW Police Force (Flemington Local Area Command) in planning, implementing, and evaluating its crime prevention projects. The crime specific knowledge and expertise that the police offers, combined with Council's community engagement capabilities, provides for a strong crime prevention orientated partnership that is proven successful in achieving outcomes for the community. Flemington Local Area Command has been engaged with closely by Council in setting out its crime prevention objectives for the 2011 - 2014 period and will be an instrumental in achieving success against the goals set out in section 4 of this document.

Strathfield Council recognises its important role as custodian of one of Sydney's most important transport hubs and the impact the resultant heavy flow of human traffic can have on crime opportunities⁵⁶. Related to this is a recognition that Strathfield LGA is impacted by issues that also concern its neighbors who play an important role in the Sydney transportation system and provide services and amenities utilised by both the travelling and resident transient population moving through and within the Inner Western region. This provides the impetus necessary to form strong partnerships with other councils in its efforts toward more effectively reducing the incidence of robbery and steal from person crimes while also reducing the risk of displacement^{viii}. Currently, Burwood Council is recognised as one of Strathfield's most important council partners in preventing robbery and steal from person crimes. The collaborative work done with Burwood in recent years has enabled projects to be implemented with a greater reach within the community and has facilitated a level of exposure needed to attract community and non-government partners vital to achieving success. Based on this experience, a priority item set out by this plan is to form strong partnerships with other neighbouring local councils in working toward crime prevention goals (see section 4). Burwood Council has indicated its support of this 2011 – 2014 Crime Prevention Strategy and its continued commitment to working with Strathfield Council on the Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart program.

⁵⁶ There is evidence to suggest that an increase in transient population within an area "has a positive effect on the crimes of burglary, larceny, and robbery..." See Jarrell & Howsen, Transient Crowding and Crime: The More 'Strangers' in an Area, the More Crime except for Murder, Assault and Rape, *The American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, Vol. 49, No. 4, Oct 1990, p. 483-494.

Other organisations that are in a position to impact either priority crimes or the Crime Prevention Strategy itself, or who represent an at-risk group, have been identified and engaged with for the purposes of ensuring strategies are well targeted. With this in mind, successful partnerships have been formed that will aid in reaching stated crime prevention goals. NRMA, for example, was identified as an important commercial stakeholder with a special interest in crime prevention and community safety. NRMA's unique capacity to bolster community awareness and crime prevention campaigns coupled with its great interest in working with local communities, local government, and the NSW Police Force is well recognised and highly regarded. Strathfield Council is privileged to name NRMA amongst its crime prevention project partners. Specifically, NRMA will be instrumental in the 'On the Streets – Safe Neighbours' program.

The NSW State Transit Authority informed parts of this Crime Prevention Strategy during an examination of the impacts that robbery and steal from person crimes can have on bus drivers and members of the public using bus services within the area (while inside STA vehicles or at bus stops). Strategic placement of advertising and public safety notices inside buses traversing through the local area may be possible throughout the duration of the project. Requests will be considered on a case by case basis.

EnergyAustralia will work closely with Strathfield Council as part of the 'Lighting up Strathfield' program, joining Council and the NSW Police in performing audits and risk assessments on streets nominated for consideration under the lighting improvement project. Implementation of the project will be approached and managed in the spirit of partnership with support, expertise, feedback and input shared on an ongoing basis throughout the project life-cycle.

The Heart Foundation is committed to working with Strathfield Council in establishing the Crime Watch Walking Groups (as set out in section 4) by:

- assisting the establishment of an Area Coordinator within Council;
- training the area coordinator and providing ongoing telephone and email support and relevant materials;
- providing free Heart Foundation walking resources and information to help recruit volunteer walk organisers and establish and promote walking groups in the area;
- provide ongoing data on the number of walkers and walking groups in the area

Strathfield Chamber of Commerce has expressed its commitment to continue working together with Strathfield Council toward engaging local industry throughout the planning and implementation phases of crime prevention programs set out in section 4. Furthermore, the Strathfield Chamber of Commerce itself is committed to supporting project planning and implementation work wherever possible.

Strathfield train station has indicated its support for this 2011 – 2014 Crime Prevention Strategy. Strathfield Council will continue to consult with the station master with respect to programs taking place in the local area with the view to optimise any important information and feedback available. Furthermore, Council will work with the station in an effort to make public education materials available to passengers wherever possible.

Strathfield Council is committed to maintaining a 'Problem Orientated Approach' in its contribution to crime prevention within the local area. As part of this commitment, an overarching community and industry engagement strategy will be implemented to optimise partnerships already formed and harness untapped sources of social capital^{ix}. An invitation will be extended to relevant organisations and representatives in order to

form a Robbery Prevention Taskforce (see the Crime Prevention Action Plan outlined in section 4). Council will continue to be informed by evidence based feedback and recommendations received from members of the Taskforce during implementation of this plan.

Organisations and representatives for the Robbery Prevention Taskforce will be selected on the basis of careful stakeholder analysis and will provide valuable expertise and resources that can be used to help mitigate risks associated with target, geographical, temporal, and crime type displacement; as well as address any program limitations identified during planning and implementation phases. The Robbery Prevention Taskforce will also be an invaluable tool in maintaining a strong level of communication with representatives of at-risk groups. These can provide expertise in effective engagement and marketing techniques with respect to their contingent population.

2.5.2 Program, communication and marketing strategies – consultation outcomes

In addition to consultation with key industry stakeholders, two key community consultations were carried out in order to capture valuable data on levels of demand for proposed programs, communication techniques to be employed and crime prevention safety message marketing strategies.

1. Australian Catholic University, Strathfield

Nineteen students at the Australian Catholic University were consulted as part of a focus group in order to gather important information and insights into the ways that university level students belonging to the ‘older demographic of youth’ (18 – 24 years) can be best engaged on the topic of robbery and steal from person crime prevention. Input was also received regarding levels of demand for crime prevention initiatives being considered for inclusion in the 2011 – 2014 Crime Prevention Strategy. Key outcomes are summarised in the table below:

Key outcomes summary:

#	Concept / Initiative	Level of interest / faith that it will work	
		Yes	No / Unsure
1	Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart forums – original model, delivered face to face.	2	17
2	Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart program – ‘New Generation’, delivered via integrated IT solution	11	8
3	Street barbeques	11	8
4	Additional Taxi rank – Homebush West	0	19
5	Graffiti removal	1	18
6	Improved lighting	18	1

Discussion Summary:

The original Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart program model (delivered face to face) represented a less popular approach to information delivery and forum access for this 'older demographic of youth'. Reasons for the level of disinterest shown in attending a face-to-face forum included:

- A belief that the information presented can just as easily be read in the newspaper or other published media;
- No time to physically attend a forum due to study, work, and personal commitments;
- A general feeling of safety that makes attendance seem unnecessary.
- Instead, more favoured modes of delivery identified by the focus group included:
- Online portal linked with the university webpage that can be accessed while engaged with other university related work;
- Facebook / Twitter updates;
- iPhone application alerts.

This quick, convenient, more incidental style of information share and community education is not only more likely to be successfully marketed and delivered to those belonging to the older youth demographic (according to the outcomes of this consultation), but arguably also has the potential to have a longer term and more powerful crime prevention impact than a single forum. Updates and alerts may be provided to members of the community on an ongoing basis over an extended period. The increasingly ubiquitous nature of computer and mobile device use means that recipients can engage with the materials made available through these technologies as part of their already established daily routines, providing important scope for every-day activities and at-risk behaviour to be impacted.

Face to face forums are considered to still be appropriate to younger groups of students and those attending other educational institutions where a target audience can be 'captured' and where participation in forums is heavily supported by host organisations. The success achieved in past forums held at institutions such as TAFE NSW and AMES and the continued public demand for more Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart forums since provides strong evidence for this.

Street barbeques were well supported by focus group participants but were identified to be an initiative much more likely to be attended by residents rather than those simply frequenting the area to work or study. Important event-specific recommendations were received and interest was shown in forming part of a project working group in order to ensure events are well marketed and are developed in such a way as to draw the attention and attendance of key community target groups.

Taxi rank and graffiti removal campaign ideas were pitched to the group with the stated goal of increasing and improving the use of public spaces and therefore extending levels of public surveillance. Both of these were found to have little appeal to the group, with strong feedback given to indicate that neither initiative would encourage use of the space in cases where it is not already in use.

Finally, strong support for improved lighting was shown by the group with a heavy emphasis placed on an improved feeling of safety being likely when travelling through and within the local area at night.

2. Crime Prevention Survey 2010 – Community Consultation Panel

A survey of the Strathfield LGA community was conducted in 2010 with the aim of identifying effective communication, engagement, and community education strategies to be adopted as part of this 2011 – 2014 Crime Prevention Strategy. The majority of respondents were aged 41+.

Key results are summarised as follows:

- 89% of respondents were interested in receiving information on crime prevention and safety enhancement techniques. Of these, 69% would prefer to receive the information on a flyer (letter box dropped), 64% in Council's newsletter, and 45% in the Council Mayoral Column (Inner West Courier). Alternate methods specified by respondents in the allocated 'other' field included 1) e-mail, 2) sms, and 3) electronic noticeboards.
- 64% of respondents indicated that they believed community safety forums are an effective means to provide information on crime prevention and safety enhancement techniques to the community and 71% said that they would consider attending a community safety forum. Of the 29% who said they would not attend a Council community safety forum, 40% said "I can research the topics myself" and 40% responded that "I'm too busy".

3 ACTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

(Projects, activities and initiatives not to be funded by the Department of Justice and Attorney General)

Target Offence	Robbery and steal from person crimes
<p>Project</p>	<p>Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart Forums</p> <p>The Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart forum model was first developed by Strathfield Council, Burwood Council, and the NSW Police force in partnership. An emphasis was placed on delivering the interactive learning based model to the local university, TAFE, and English language schools. More recently, the program has expanded to include local high schools. Key aims of the program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early Intervention: To provide opportunities for positive face-to-face contact and active engagement between youth, Police Officers, and Council Officers. - Public education/target hardening: To enhance attendee’s ability to actively prevent, identify, and respond appropriately to robbery and/or steal from person crimes. - Increase levels of reporting^x: To eliminate misconceptions around what is involved in and what the repercussions can be of reporting an incident to police (strengthening the likelihood that crimes will be reported promptly and coherently). <p>Data collected during evaluation exercises indicate that the project has achieved success in 1) bringing about behavioural changes likely to reduce risk of victimisation, and 2) increasing the likelihood that participants would report a robbery.</p> <p>The action plan outlined below broadens the original model to include environmental design principals, a heavier emphasis on alternative means of public education, and online communication. These aspects are introduced in recognition of the success that this and other programs have enjoyed to date and of valuable input received through the community consultation processes undergone in developing this 2011 – 2014 Crime Prevention Strategy.</p>
<p>Rationale</p>	<p>Strathfield LGA has been identified as the highest ranked Sydney Metropolitan LGA in NSW for robbery offences over the past five years⁵⁷. It is therefore considered important that an emphasis on deterring and preventing this crime is</p>

⁵⁷ Ibid No. 16

	<p>prioritised. Similarly, Strathfield LGA was ranked number two in the year 2009 for steal from person crimes and was previously ranked four and three in 2007 and 2008 respectively⁵⁸. Elements of the crime opportunity for robbery and steal from person crimes are considered to be shared. With that in mind, both crimes can be addressed through implementation of this plan.</p> <p>Robbery and steal from person crimes occurring within the Strathfield LGA typically take place on the street where persons travelling to and from the train station on foot are victimised. Research tells us that crime opportunities are impacted where targets are 'hardened' or removed and capable guardians are established⁵⁹. The Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart program represents a highly targeted, interactive approach to a public education which is proven to be effective in impacting crime opportunities that exist in the area. Evaluation data collected during the pilot series of forums demonstrates the success that was achieved in encouraging positive behavioural change with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 65.2% of respondents stating they would be more aware of surroundings when walking; - 36.8% of respondents stating they would change times and locations when walking; - 37.8% of respondents stating they would be aware of carrying cash and valuable items when walking, and; - 32.6% of respondents stating they would be less likely to travel alone. 	
Lead Agency and Partners	Lead agencies for forums held within the Strathfield LGA are Strathfield Council and the NSW Police Force (Flemington Local Area Command). Other partners and stakeholders include Burwood Council, Burwood Local Area Command, AMES, The Smith Family, Petersham TAFE, and Australian Catholic University. Additional partners are expected to be engaged as the program continues to mature.	
Objective	Factor to be achieved	Level of Impact
	Behavioural changes likely to reduce risk of victimisation	50% or above of all participants (average derived from 4 categories of behavioural change specified in the evaluation tool)
	Increased likelihood of reporting a robbery or steal from person crime to police.	50% or above of all participants
Expected	The desired longer-term impact of the Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart forums is a better educated and more	

⁵⁸ Ibid No. 18

⁵⁹ Felson M & Clarke R (1998) 'Opportunity Makes the Thief: practical theory for crime prevention', *Police Research Series*, Paper 98

<p>Outcome</p>	<p>equipped populous that are at a much lower risk of being made victim to robbery or steal from person crimes than would previously be expected.</p> <p>It is recognised that the project, in light of the objectives specified, will likely result in conflicting pressures on local crime statistics. Downward pressure on recorded incidences of offences is likely to be counteracted to a degree by an increased rate of reporting. This has been considered in formulating the monitoring and evaluation tools discussed in section 3 below.</p>
<p>Performance Measures</p>	<p>Performance measures are outlined in the Action Plan set out in section 4 of this document.</p> <p>Ongoing data collection will be maintained through the approved evaluation process to determine if a program achieving objectives. Pre and post comparisons are used to assess change.</p>

Target Offence	Robbery and steal from person crimes
<p>Project</p>	<p>Strathfield Robbery Prevention Initiative</p> <p>This project was outlined in a Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) funding application lodged by Strathfield Council in 2011. The application was successful in attracting \$150,000 in funding. The project's details together with its listed objectives are taken from the funding application and are set out below.</p> <p>The project can be summarised as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CCTV installations in three possible key locations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Beresford Road and Elva Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – overlooking the park – overlooking Beresford Road – overlooking Elva Street II. Burlington Road and Rochester Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – overlooking Rochester Street north – overlooking Rochester Street south III. Homebush West Shopping Centre three-way intersection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Three cameras overlooking intersection and shops 2. Resource Kit <p>Wallet cards, post cards, newspaper advertisements, and posters.</p> 3. Community Engagement and Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide public demonstrations in hot spot areas to increase public awareness and education. – Provide free self defence classes for at risk groups living, working, and studying within the Strathfield LGA. – Produce detailed and engaging educational material to be distributed to persons using the Strathfield train station.

	<p>4. Business Engagement and Education</p> <p>Armed robbery prevention and awareness training for at risk business owners and staff.</p>
Rationale	<p>Advice received from the NSW Police indicates that installation of CCTV facilities in hot spot areas within the Strathfield LGA will assist police in their work.</p> <p>Research shows mixed results regarding the effectiveness of CCTV in deterring crime on its own⁶⁰. However, in analysing the discrepancy between the “sizeable (19%) and significant desirable effect on crime” achieved by U.K. schemes as compared with those in other countries which showed no desirable effect on crime, it was suggested that “the absence of other situational or social crime prevention measures in the non-U.K. CCTV schemes may be a contributing factor to their overall poor effect in reducing crime”⁶¹. Community and business engagement and education components to this project will help bridge this gap within the Strathfield model while also safeguarding against target displacement.</p>
Lead Agency and Partners	Strathfield Council, NSW Police Force
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Behavioural changes likely to reduce risk of victimisation in young people and people from CALD backgrounds who live or study in Strathfield. 2. Development of self defence skills by at risk groups living, working, and studying within the Strathfield LGA. 3. Reduction of robbery offences occurring in the one kilometre radius around Strathfield, Homebush and Flemington train stations. 4. Reduced opportunities for robbery crimes to occur within Strathfield businesses and an increase in preparedness of business owners and staff to remain safe if crimes like this should occur.
Expected Outcome	<p>Behavioural changes likely to reduce risk of victimisation for both individuals and businesses involved.</p> <p>Deterrence reflected in crime statistics as a reduction of robbery offences occurring in the 1km radius around Strathfield, Homebush and Flemington train stations.</p> <p>It is recognised that the project may result in conflicting pressures on local crime statistics. Downward pressure on</p>

⁶⁰ Welsh C & Farrington D (2007) 'Closed-Circuit Television Surveillance and Crime Prevention: A Systematic Review', p. 37

⁶¹ Ibid, p. 47

	recorded incidences of offences may be counteracted to a degree by “increased reporting of crimes to the police and increased recording of crimes by the police” ⁶² . This has been considered in formulating the monitoring and evaluation tools discussed in section 3 below.
Performance Measures	Performance measures are outlined in the Action Plan set out in section 4.

⁶² Ibid, p.10

4 MONITORING AND EVALUATING

4.1 Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart Forums

4.1.1 Monitoring

The project will be monitored on an ongoing basis using the following parameters and tools:

Performance Indicators:

- Project Plan
- participant evaluation
- project partner feedback
- robbery and steal from person crime statistics and hot spot information provided by police
- Meetings with the NSW Police Force (Flemington Local Area Command).

Monitoring time frames:

- Project plan – monthly (or as required)
- Participant evaluation – upon commencement and completion of each forum
- Project partner feedback – upon completion of each forum or at the conclusion of the season
- Police crime statistics / hot spot information – bi-annually
- Meetings with the NSW Police – monthly
- BOCSAR statistics – quarterly

4.1.2 Evaluation and data collection

Data collected using the approved project evaluation tool will be monitored to detect behavioural change and shifts in likeliness to report a robbery or steal from person crime as a result of participation in the Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart forums. Baseline data will be collected prior to each forum using a short survey that can be used to gage attitudinal factors and levels knowledge prior to participation in the forum. These pieces of data combined will provide the information needed to evaluate the impact of the program on risk factors.

Police statistics will form part of the evaluation with respect to shifts in number of occurrences. Attitudinal change data (described above) will inform their interpretation.

4.2 Strathfield Robbery Prevention Initiative

4.2.1 Monitoring

The project will be monitored on an ongoing basis using the following parameters and tools:

Performance Indicators:

- Project plan,
- participant evaluation,
- project partner feedback,
- robbery and steal from person crime statistics and hot spot information provided by police,
- Meetings with the NSW Police Force (Flemington Local Area Command).

Monitoring time frames:

- Project plan – monthly (or as required)

- Participant evaluation – upon commencement and completion of each class / demonstration
- Project partner feedback – upon completion of the project
- Police crime statistics / hot spot information – bi-annually
- Meetings with the NSW Police Force – monthly
- BOCSAR statistics – quarterly

4.2.2 Evaluation and data collection

Data collected using the approved project evaluation tool will be monitored to detect behavioural change and shifts in likeliness to report a robbery or steal from person crime as a result of participation in self defence / awareness training. Baseline data will be collected prior to each class using a short survey that can be used to gage attitudinal factors and levels knowledge prior to participation. These pieces of data combined will provide the information needed to evaluate the impact of the program on risk factors.

Police statistics will form part of the evaluation with respect to shifts in number of occurrences. Attitudinal change data (described above) will inform their interpretation.

5 CRIME PREVENTION ACTION PLAN

Target offence	Robbery and steal from person
Project	Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart
Rationale	Strathfield LGA has been identified as the highest ranked Sydney Metropolitan LGA in NSW for Robbery offences over the past five years ⁶³ and was ranked number two, three and four in 2009, 2008, and 2007 respectively for steal from person crimes ⁶⁴ . The Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart program represents a highly targeted and interactive approach to a public education proven to be effective in impacting robbery and steal from person crime opportunities.
Objective	Early intervention, public education, increased levels of reporting, behavioural changes likely to reduce risk of victimisation.
Lead agency and partners	Strathfield Council, NSW Police (Flemington Local Area Command)
Expected outcome	The desired longer-term impact of the Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart program is a better educated and more equipped populous that are at a much lower risk of being made victim to robbery or steal from person crimes than would previously be expected.

⁶³ Ibid No. 16

⁶⁴ Ibid No. 18

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart forums	<p>Number of forums held</p> <p>Ratio of target demographic attending forums</p> <p>Evaluation indicates a success rate of over 50% in 1) encouraging behavioural changes likely to reduce risk of victimisation, and 2) increasing the likelihood that participants will report a robbery.</p> <p>Milestones reached on time and within budget.</p>	Ongoing	Council	<p>Agreed number of forums held each quarter within host organisations.</p> <p>Approved evaluation process complied with for each forum held.</p> <p>Evaluation report completed for the series at the conclusion of the project time frame.</p>
Public education campaign	<p>Number of street signs erected</p> <p>Signs installed on local STA busses, at bus stops and other key locations in the local area.</p> <p>Public radio campaign identified as source of crime prevention information by surveyed members of community groups.</p> <p>Milestones reached on time and within budget</p>	2011 - 2012	\$6,000	<p>Street signs erected in the vicinity of popular commuter car parks, pedestrian thoroughfares, and police identified hot spots.</p> <p>Signage installed on local STA busses, at bus stops, and other key locations.</p> <p>Public radio campaign launched through community language radio programs.</p> <p>Evaluation process developed and implemented to assess impacts on attitudinal and behavioural factors.</p>
Integrated IT solution to 'new generation' community engagement.	<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook: Number of friends • Twitter: Number of followers • iPhone: Number of downloads 	2011 - 2014	\$25,000	<p>Facebook and Twitter site set up and advertised through community partners.</p> <p>iPhone application developed and advertised.</p> <p>Online forum tools developed and established.</p> <p>Advertisement of online forum through 'host'</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Communication Portal: Number of hits <p>Milestones reached on time and within budget.</p>			<p>organisations.</p> <p>Launch</p> <p>All media administered and maintained by CSO</p>
Form partnerships with other local councils	<p>Number of partnerships formed.</p> <p>Relevance of partnerships to the 2011 – 2014 Crime Prevention Strategy.</p> <p>Strength and projected longevity of partnerships.</p>	2011 – 2014	Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research 2. Consultation 3. Engagement 4. Collaboration 5. Implementation 6. Evaluation

Target offence	Robbery and steal from person
Project	Lighting up Strathfield
Rationale	<p>Research indicates that improved street lighting can contribute to reduced incidences of crime^{xi} by effecting “a change in the perceptions, attitudes, and behaviour of residents and potential offenders”⁶⁵.</p> <p>The impact of improved lighting is likely to be greater “if the existing lighting is poor and if the improvement in lighting is considerable”⁶⁶ and where “[t]he effects of improved lighting may also interact with other environmental improvements, such as closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras”⁶⁷ – one initiative outlined in the ‘Strathfield Robbery Prevention Initiative’ project outlined in section 2 of this document.</p> <p>This project is complimented by both the Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart and ‘On the Streets in Strathfield’ projects and may be implemented in sequence or in conjunction with both.</p>
Objective	To improve community guardianship and surveillance mechanisms within police identified hot spots with the aim of deterring crime.
Lead agency and partners	Strathfield Council, EnergyAustralia.
Expected outcome	Improved lighting in police-identified hot spots. Reduced incidences of robbery and steal from person crimes within the police-identified hot spots subjected to lighting improvements.

⁶⁵ Ibid No. 54, p. 4

⁶⁶ Ibid p. 5

⁶⁷ Ibid

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
Street lighting audits	Number of streets audited by Council and EnergyAustralia	2012 - 2013	Council	Hot spot lighting audits completed by EnergyAustralia and Council (based on Police advice) quarterly. Lighting improvement recommendations received each quarter.
Street lighting improvement	Number of police-identified hot spots addressed. Reduction in the number of recorded incidences within the immediate area of improvement as demonstrated by police statistics.	2012 - 2013	\$25,000	Lighting improvement recommendations implemented.
Environmental design treatments – improving the value of lighting	Treatments that compliment, improve, or otherwise aid lighting improvements implemented.	2012 - 2013	\$5,000	Recommendations received from the NSW Police Force and Council's CSO. Community and specialist Council Officers consulted RE: special considerations to be taken into account. Appropriate treatments implemented.
Crime Prevention Marketing Plan ⁶⁸	Crime Prevention Social Marketing Study conducted (specifically focused on Strathfield LGA) to outline practical measures proposed based on a solid foundation of demonstrated research and consultation. Proposed measures enable Council to more effectively promote crime prevention programs to its community over coming years and potentially attract funding as a result of the evidence based approach.	2012 - 2013	\$20,000 - \$30,000	The following sections are to be included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Research • Marketing Goals • Marketing Strategies • Monitor and Control

⁶⁸ See Amendola et al. 'Technological Delivery Methods of Community Safety Messages', Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 2007 (unpublished)

	Due consideration given to each major cultural, age, and socioeconomic group.			
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Target offence	Robbery and steal from person
Project	On the Streets in Strathfield
Rationale	This project is aimed at ensuring that a Problem Orientated Approach to Addressing Public Safety Concerns (relating to priority crimes) is maintained ⁶⁹ and that social capital is both harnessed and enhanced for the purposes of extending guardianship and assisting in natural surveillance within the local area.
Objective	To continue to build on the strength of Lighting up Strathfield, Keeping Safe and Thinking Smart, and Strathfield Robbery Prevention Initiative by further fostering a strong sense of community pride and community cohesiveness. A heavy emphasis on industry and community engagement, participation, and (therefore) active presence in local public spaces will establish a robust informal social control mechanism in identified crime hotspots and the LGA throughout.
Lead agency and partners	Strathfield Council, NSW Police Force (Flemington Local Area Command)
Expected outcome	Reduced incidences of robbery and steal from person crimes.

⁶⁹ Plant & Scott, 2009, *Effective Policing and Crime Prevention: A Problem-Oriented Guide for Mayors, City Managers, and County Executives*, Centre for Problem-Oriented Policing, U.S. Department of Justice, p. 24 - 25

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
Robbery Prevention Taskforce	<p>Level of key stakeholder participation</p> <p>Practical and relevant recommendations received, recorded, researched and implemented.</p> <p>Formalised evaluation process applied to measure performance of initiatives.</p> <p>Aims, objectives, methodologies and processes documented to ensure projects/initiatives can be replicated with confidence.</p>	2011 – 2014	Council	<p>Taskforce established.</p> <p>Meetings held quarterly.</p> <p>Recommendations researched and evidence base established.</p> <p>Approved recommendations implemented.</p> <p>Evaluation process applied.</p> <p>Outcomes shared with the Community Safety Officer Network</p>
Community safety audits	<p>Audits conducted at all repeat target areas or high risk hot spot areas as identified by police.</p> <p>Standardised model and methodology used for auditing and reporting to ensure the highest level of consistency and transparency.</p>	2013 – 2014	Council	<p>Audits conducted of hot spots in partnership with the NSW Police Force</p> <p>Reports prepared using the standardised model and made available for Council review.</p>
Environmental design treatments (EDT)	<p>Environmental design treatments proposed based on a sound evidence base and on outcomes of Community Safety Audits conducted in the local area (see above).</p>	2012 – 2014	Approx. \$5,000 per year	<p>EDT approved for implementation.</p> <p>EDT implemented.</p> <p>Outcomes evaluated and documented.</p> <p>Outcomes shared with Community Safety Officer Network (if novel or new).</p>
'Crime Watch' ⁷⁰ walking groups	<p>Level of participation.</p> <p>Locations that walking groups move through (i.e. one important crime prevention goal is for walking groups to travel through hot spots to extend guardianship over the area).</p>	2013 – 2014	Council	<p>Key stakeholders engaged.</p> <p>Project planned using standardised tools and methodologies (including evaluation tools).</p> <p>Walking groups established.</p>

⁷⁰ 'Working It Out: A Community Re-Creation Approach to Crime Prevention', *Journal of Community Psychology*, October 1986, Vol. 14, Issue 4, p. 378

	<p>Engagement of members of the public as well as key stakeholders / representatives (such as teachers, religious leaders, prominent community members, youth etc).</p> <p>Evaluations conducted using standardised methodology.</p>			<p>Quarterly evaluations conducted.</p>
<p>'On the Streets - Safe Neighbours' program (street barbeques and Strathfield neighbour events).</p>	<p>Number of community barbeques held at Police identified hot spot locations.</p> <p>Community and industry key stakeholder involvement.</p> <p>Level of attendance.</p> <p>Formalised evaluation process applied.</p>	<p>2013 – 2014</p>	<p>\$15,000</p>	<p>Key community and industry stakeholders engaged.</p> <p>Project plan developed (including evaluation methodology and advertising, promotion, and communication plan).</p> <p>Barbeques held in local hot spot areas and at appropriate 'hot' times.</p> <p>Evaluation results compiled and analysed. Outcomes made available to Council.</p>

ⁱ The Inner Western Sydney statistical division includes the suburbs of Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay – Concord, Canada Bay – Drummoyne, and Strathfield.

ⁱⁱ “The ratio to NSW rate statistics are a comparison of a NSW regional rate per 100,000 population to the NSW rate per 100,000 population. A ratio of one indicates parity with the NSW rate” (NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, ‘New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics: Quarterly Update June 2010’, *Statistical Report Series*, p. 27).

ⁱⁱⁱ In reporting its statistics the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research emphasises that:

“Rate calculations should also be treated very cautiously for LGAs that have high visitor numbers relative to their residential population. This is because rate calculations are based on estimated residential population and no adjustment has been made for the number of people visiting each LGA per year” (NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Local Government Area Ranking Report - Robbery*, reference: 2010-308503-7, 9 November 2010).

The impact of the population commuting through Strathfield is taken into account by this plan when considering the ranking attributed to the LGA and the steps to be taken in addressing crime prevention requirements.

^{iv} A trend is not calculated if at least one 12 month period in the selected timeframe had less than 20 incidents

^v Summarised, a problem orientated approach involves a process whereby:

- “Problems are identified and defined.
- Problems are analysed to determine causes and contributing factors.
- Current responses are reviewed to determine strengths and limitations.
- New and alternative responses are considered.
- An improved response strategy is designed.
- Responses are implemented.
- Results are measured” (Plant & Scott, 2008, *Effective Policing and Crime Prevention: A Problem-Oriented Guide for Mayors, City Managers, and County Executives*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Orientated Policing Services. See: www.cops.usdoj.gov).

^{vi} “Routine activity theory is one of the main theories of “environmental criminology”. The theory states that a crime occurs when the following three elements come together in any given space and time:

1. An accessible target
2. The absence of capable guardians that could intervene
3. The presence of a motivated offender”

(NSW Attorney General’s Department (2008) *Routine activity theory: crime prevention* [Fact sheet], retrieved from [http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/cpd/ll_cpdiv.nsf/vwFiles/RoutineActivityFactsheet_April2008.pdf/\\$file/RoutineActivityFactsheet_April2008.pdf](http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/cpd/ll_cpdiv.nsf/vwFiles/RoutineActivityFactsheet_April2008.pdf/$file/RoutineActivityFactsheet_April2008.pdf))

^{vii} “CRAVED characteristics:

- **C**oncealable—the robber can hide the items on his or her person;
- **R**emovable—the robber can easily take the items from the victim;
- **A**vailable—the items are commonly found on potential victims;

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- Valuable—the items are useful to the robber or others;
 - Enjoyable—the items are fun to use; and
 - Disposable—the robber can easily sell the items to or trade the items with others.”

(Monk, K; Heinonen, J; Eck, J, 'Street Robbery', Problem-Oriented Guides for Police, *Problem-Specific Guides Series* No. 59, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services)

^{viii} The concept of displacement refers to a phenomenon whereby crime is moved around as a result of situational crime prevention measures, rather than prevented. According to this theory five categories of displacement can occur: 1) geographical, 2) temporal, 3) target, 4) tactical, and 5) crime type (See New South Wales Government, Attorney General's Department, *Displacement theory and crime prevention*, 2008, p. 1 [http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/cpd/ll_cpdiv.nsf/vwFiles/DisplacementTheoryFactsheet_2008.pdf/\\$file/DisplacementTheoryFactsheet_2008.pdf](http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/cpd/ll_cpdiv.nsf/vwFiles/DisplacementTheoryFactsheet_2008.pdf/$file/DisplacementTheoryFactsheet_2008.pdf)).

^{ix} In a community work-setting, social capital refers to the specific processes among people and organisations working collaboratively in an atmosphere of trust that leads to accomplishing a goal of mutual social benefit. Such a definition describes the extent and nature of relationships people have with one another, their communities, various services, institutions and systems. There has been much interest in social capital in recent years by policy makers and others who are interested in the links between it and various other important outcomes. Research has suggested that people in communities with high social capital may be healthier, more politically engaged as well as experiencing greater personal safety and education (Strathfield Council, 2009, 'Social Plan 2009 – 2014', p. 41).

^x The Australian Bureau of Statistics' (2010) *Crime Victimisation, Australia 2008 - 09* report (ABS cat. No 4530.0) indicates that in the 12 months prior to December 2008 approximately 39% of robbery victims had reported the most recent incident to police (p. 1), while just 23% of robbery incidents are estimated to have been reported to police overall (p. 7). The Police are strengthened in their capacity to effectively respond to and strategise against robbery within the local area if incidents are readily reported in a prompt and accurate manner. More information available on robberies occurring in the local area will empower Council and Police to work closely together to address specific environmental (and other) issues relevant to criminal activity occurring locally.

^{xi} Concerns associated with implementing lighting improvement for the purposes of deterring crime often relate to risk of displacement of crime from one area to another (geographical). In recognition of this, careful consideration has been given to hot spots within the area – i.e. why they exist, how those areas are being used, and why they are being used in that manner. Results of this analysis indicate that a large-scale lighting improvement is required across the 1 km radius surrounding the Strathfield train station in order to deter criminal activity while also preventing hot spots from simply jumping to another nearby location. Commuters travelling to and from the Strathfield station by foot will be subject to a much greater level of community surveillance, raising the risks of detection for would-be offenders and therefore making the 'opportunity' to offend much less attractive. The environment outside of the 1km radius is less target-rich as it is less common for persons outside of this radius to travel toward or away from the train station on foot during 'hot times'.