

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT MEETING, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2017, COMMENCING AT 11.00AM.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Leigh Byron (Balranald Shire), Bob Stewart (Balranald Shire), Robyn Johnson (Mallee Family Care), Wally Johnson (Presbyterian Church), Scott Smith (Tooleybuc Hotel), Troy Brown (Homebush Hotel), Wayne Whitby (Balranald Ex-servicemen's Club) and Inspector Jy Brown (NSW Police Force).

**APOLOGIES:** Aaron Drenovski (Balranald Shire), Sgt Narelle Tucker – Chair (Balranald Police) and Superintendent Paul Condon.

Correction for previous minutes – Wayne Whitby in attendance but name not in present list.

Previous Minutes were accepted by Jy Brown and seconded by Wayne Whitby.

Inspector Jy Brown opened the meeting with a round table introduction.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Nil.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Police Statistics**

Inspector Brown reported that there has been nothing major happening around the area since last meeting and that there had been no spikes in crime and that there was no trouble over the Christmas / New Year period.

Inspector Brown advised that traffic operations are running another program called "Safe Return" which has kicked off.

Inspector Brown also advised that drug testing is being undertaken in the region as well as RBT's. The rates of drivers being caught drug driving is much higher than drink driving. New machines are being rolled out to Hay, Deni & Finley which will allow drug tests to be conducted on the road side. Police who will be using these machines will undertake training to ensure correct use.

Inspector Brown advised that Peter Joyce (licensing officer) has been to most licensed premises in the area but has not yet made it to Euston.

Inspector Brown commented on police staffing in the region, one position is still vacant in Balranald and a new highway cop has been employed in Hay.

**New Business**

Robyn Johnson sought clarification on the emergency accommodation arrangements. A discussion took place regarding whether the way it is set up needs tweaking and who should have access to allow people in. Inspector Brown suggested that for personal safety reasons it is better to leave the access to the building with the Police.

Mayor Byron enquired as to whether a follow up meeting for the Euston Community in regards to the robberies that took place in Euston could be set up with Superintendent Paul Condon. Inspector Brown advised that he would push it up to the Superintendent to sort out dates and times.

A general discussion took place in regards to the penalty for drink driving versus drug driving.

Bob Stewart provided an update regarding various happenings in the shire

- Dangerous Dog attack in Balranald – the dog in question has been euthanized.
- Almond Developments – an influx of workers for new almond farms will commence in the winter months
- Iluka works – geotechnical works to test road strength will commence soon in Balranald Township and on the Sturt Highway just out of town
- River levels Murrumbidgee – Foot valves have been extended. Emergency plans were activated in case of a fire while the town was on water restrictions.
- Flood Aftermath – flood damage claims have gone in and funds have been provided to repair infrastructure

Wayne Whitby enquired as to whether the Council were going to do anything to the fallen trees in the river. Bob Stewart advised that Council are not the control authority for works in the river, rather this is a matter that must be referred to Fisheries before any works can be undertaken.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 **at 11:00am.**

**CLOSURE:** There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.57am.