

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MARKET STREET, BALRANALD ON THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2019, commencing at 3.00PM.

PRESENT: Wayne Whitby (Balranald Ex-Services Club), Paul Sills (Tooleybuc Sports Club), Paul Hadlow (Balranald Rescue Squad), Paul Smith (NSW Police), Jayden Lippens (NSW Police, Euston), Jason Noreen (NSW Police, Balranald), Darren Brand (NSW Police), Michael Kitzelmann (Balranald Shire Council) and Carol Holmes (Balranald Shire Council)

APOLOGIES: Vicki Barnes (Kyalite Hotel)

Darren Brand opened the meeting at 3.07pm and thanked everyone for attending and thanked Council for holding the meeting and changing the date.

Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Meeting was moved by Darren Brand and Seconded by Michael Kitzelmann.

Darren introduced Jayden of Euston Police to the committee and advised that Jayden was a licensing specialist as well as his normal police duties.

Jayden's expertise in the sector is to help licensees.

Darren advised the committee that all Licensees will be invited to each future meeting.

Police – the Balranald Sector is in full strength. A new constable will commence working in Balranald on 19 January 2020; she will reside in the police units in Court Street with her family.

No significant crime issues in Balranald and Euston for this period. This time of the year has an increase of road users leaving concerns for road safety. Licensed premises will also experience busier times although there is no significant issue for this area.

Emergency management – There is no significant risk for this area, regarding the fires within the state.

Some minor issues in regards to the total fire ban for this area, Balranald Waste Depot had been closed because of Total Fire Ban. Michael Kitzelmann advised the committee that Council water tankers are all on standby if the need arises, he has advised Steve Walker of Rural Fire Services.

Darren has been liaising with Steve Walker and he advised the risk assessment is reasonably low in this area.

General Crime issues are low for our area. Cross border issues are being pushed to work together.

Armed Robberies, Mildura/Buronga area, there had been 3 arrests since Monday, this giving an example of the need for cross borders working together.

The current drought conditions have had a major impact on fuels for the NSW bush fires.

Staffing is extremely good within the Dareton sector, not so much in Central Darling Shire. Recruitment numbers are extremely low. Superintendent Paul Smith expressed the need for recruitments, and asked the committee to spread the word and encourage new members. For recruitments go to the NSW Police website and continue through the recruitment portal. He also advised if you wish to stay in the bush after recruitment, the chances are you will stay in bush. Recruitment is done through CSU now not the Policy Academy although not being paid for 6 months whilst recruitment is progressing is an issue. Police are doing a big recruitment drive at the moment.

The crime within the entire police district is up and down.

Michael Kitzelmann advised the committee that the Youth Council, together with the Manager Economic & Strategic Development have applied for a grant to upgrade the Balranald Lions Park.

Michael also asked Darren in the police were providing extra staffing for the holiday period. Response; There will be no extra staff, although they will be more visible. Increased RBT, Drug Testing with both mobile and stationery and rural blocks will have increased patrolling.

30% increase of heavy vehicles within the last 12 months with holiday makers, caravanners etc. makes it a high risk time for accidents. From 20th January Highway patrol will be full strength and will provide more coverage.

Darren Brand advised the community and meeting members to report any issues, no matter how big or small the issue is. Report to police. Police are more than happy to work together with any issues from community members and groups.

Balranald Shire Council -

Michael Kitzelmann advised the committee that Council was currently dealing with issues of caravan park keys to cabins, house, sheds and toilet facilities being cut and used by unknown people. Cabins are being cleaned one day, and next day they have been used although no one has been booked into that cabin for the night.

Video surveillance is currently being installed around the Caravan Park, including all entry points, ablution block and will also be in the vicinity of the Emergency Housing cabin.

Emergency Unit will be used for Emergencies only including Motor Vehicle Accidents and will be accessible 24 hours per day. The boom gate at the Caravan Park will be re-installed with either a swipe card or pin number. The way of entry through the boom gate will be given to the police to enable them to use when needed.

In Unit 5 there is currently a person with mental issues living there, police health, ambulances and council are working together to transition him to an appropriate unit away from Caravan Park.

QANTAC have kindly donated a donga to be placed at Caravan Park. When Unit 5 has become available, will be made into the Emergency Housing unit and the donga will be set up as 4 single units with patio out the front.

The accommodation village is downsizing and will become 150 bed permanent ongoing arrangement, a new DA to change from temporary to permanent will need to be submitted. This will accommodate employees on a rotating roster, fly in and fly out for Iluka Mining.

Balranald has had no real issues with the workers.

Next Meeting; 26th March 2020 @ 3pm with all licensees being invited and encouraged to attend to discuss licensing accord.

CLOSURE: There being no further business the meeting closed at 4pm.

Michael thanked the NSW Police for the temporary back yard access to Shire Office whilst the works were carried out.