Blue Mountains
Crime Prevention Plan
2014-2017

Prepared by
Blue Mountains City Council
in partnership with the
Blue Mountains Community Safety Precinct Committee

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Definitions

References

DEFINITIONS

AG   Attorney General (NSW)

BOCSAR   NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

BMCC   Blue Mountains City Council

BM LAC   Blue Mountains Local Area Command

CPP   Crime Prevention Plan

CPO   Crime Prevention Officer

CSPC   Community Safety Precinct Committee

LGA   Local Government Area

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

The NSW Attorney Generals Department (AG) is committed to achieving goals outlined in the NSW State Plan to reduce rates of crime, reoffending and anti-social behaviour. The AG recognises Local Government to be in the best position to collaboratively implement crime reduction strategies due to the localised nature of many of the crimes and antisocial behaviour, and provides guidance and funding to assist Local Government in this role.

This Crime Prevention Plan (CPP) has been developed in accordance with the Attorney Generals Departments 'Guidelines for developing a Crime Prevention Strategy' which provides a template and information on developing a plan that focuses on the area's priority crime. The CPP identifies roles and responsibilities of Council and other key stakeholders and outlines an Action Plan to reduce the priority crime.

Once the CPP is adopted by the Council and endorsed by the AG, Councils are eligible to apply for state government funding to implement strategies contained in the Action Plan. Council will also seek to develop formal support for the CPP from the various key stakeholders who will then implement the Plan.

The Blue Mountains Crime Prevention Plan (CPP) focuses on the ***reduction of malicious damage*** including incidents of graffiti within the Blue Mountains Local Government Area (LGA). Since 2008 police crime data of reported instances of malicious damage has demonstrated a downward trend however it is still by far the most prevalent crime in the LGA, resulting in a reduced perception of safety by the community and ongoing damage related costs to both the Council and Community.

Crime Prevention Plan Development

Step	Description of process	Stakeholders
1.	Draft plan developed with assistance of key stakeholders.	• NSW Police • The Blue Mountains Community Safety Precinct Committee • The internal graffiti working group • Relevant Council staff.
2.	Internal review of plan	• The internal graffiti working party • Relevant Council Staff
3.	External review of plan	• Blue Mountains LAC • External graffiti working party • Blue Mountains Community Safety Precinct Committee • MYST • Relevant Council staff
4.	Report to Council for approval to place on public exhibition	• Relevant Council staff • Councillors
5.	Public exhibition	• Relevant Council staff • Public
6.	Review of plan	• Relevant Council Staff

7.	Plan sent to NSW AG Department to review	• NSW AG Department
8.	Report to Council to adopt CPP	• Relevant Council Staff • Councillors
9.	Formal agreements from responsible agencies	• Relevant Council Staff and key stakeholders
10.	Plan sent to NSW AG Department for endorsement	• Relevant Council staff
11.	Apply to NSW AG Department for grants to implement strategies in CPP Action Plan	• Relevant Council Staff

Stakeholder Responsibilities

Stakeholder	Responsibilities to the Crime Prevention Plan
NSW Police/ Blue Mountains Local Area Command	• Information and recorded crime statistics. • Assistance in the development of the plan. • Implementation and assistance with some of the crime reduction strategies in the Action Plan.
Chambers of Commerce	• Assistance in the development of the plan. • Support with the implementation of part of the Action Plan.
Internal graffiti working party	• Assistance in the development of the plan. • Support with the implementation of part of the Action Plan.
External graffiti working party	• Assistance in the development of the plan. • Support with the implementation of part of the Action Plan.
MYST	• Assistance in the development of the plan. • Support with the implementation of part of the Action Plan.
Community Safety Precinct Committee	• Assistance in the development of the plan. • Support with the implementation of part of the Action Plan.
Council	• Development of the plan with the assistance of key stakeholders. • Seek Council adoption of the Plan. • Seek NSW AG Department endorsement of Plan. • Seek funding for actions within the Plan from NSW AG Department. • Implementation of the Action Plan with assistance from stakeholders. • Monitoring and evaluation of the Plan.

1.2　THE AIM
This Crime Prevention Plan aims to implement strategies that reduce malicious damage in the Blue Mountains.

The Plan identifies a number of specific strategies that target the reduction of malicious damage in the Blue Mountains. These strategies were selected through a review of relevant similar practices across Australia, a review of existing Council Policies / Plans and careful consideration of the issues particular to the Blue Mountains and resources available to the relevant stakeholders tasked with implementation of the Plan.

2.0   CRIME PROFILE

This section provides a brief analysis of crime in the Blue Mountains Local Government Area.

2.1   LOCAL CRIME PROFILE

The purpose of developing a crime profile is to determine the priorities for this Crime Prevention Plan (the Plan). In seeking information for this crime profile Council sought advice from the local Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) and recorded crime statistics were gathered from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR).

Information provided below includes only recorded criminal incidents which are defined as *"any activity detected or reported to police".*

In determining the priorities of the Plan an analysis of crime was conducted for the 2008-2012 period for each offence type. It also compared the Blue Mountains incidents per offence type with the other 143 LGA's in NSW.

No^	Offence Type	No of Offences 2012	Trend		State Ranking*
			24 months	60 months	
1	Malicious damage to property	1,013	Stable	-9.2%	55
2	Break and enter dwelling	342	Stable	7.5%	77
3	Assault - non-domestic violence related	272	Stable	-5.0%	89
4	Steal from motor vehicle	256	-27.9%	Stable	110
5	Assault - domestic violence related	230	-22.8%	Stable	89
6	Fraud	228	Stable	Stable	73
Other	Arson	42	Stable	Stable	92

^ Offence type ranked in order of most recorded
* Ranks calculated for LGA's with populations greater than 3,000 people = 143

In reviewing the above information it is clear that "malicious damage to property" including graffiti is by far the highest recorded crime in the Blue Mountains. It also shows that "break and enter dwelling" has had a 7.5% upward trend in the previous 5 year period.

In comparison to other local government areas across NSW, the Blue Mountains local government area has a relatively low crime rate and while "malicious damage" is the highest recorded crime the statistics reflect, in part, an active community that report incidents of graffiti. Actions for reducing the incidents of malicious damage will be further discussed later in this document. These actions canvass effective actions to deter crime. In this light it should be noted that while CCTV has become popular in both public and private settings, research suggests its effectiveness as a deterrent for malicious damage is limited.

Bathurst Regional Council CCTV Working Party (part of the Community Safety Committee) recently undertook a review of current literature on CCTV to determine the effectiveness of CCTV in public places. In particular the study reviewed its effectiveness to prevent crime in regards to malicious damage and non-domestic related violence which are priority crimes for Bathurst. The study found that CCTV is not supported as an effective crime prevention measure and that other strategies such as increased natural surveillance, closer collaboration with licensed venues and better transport strategies would have the greatest likelihood of addressing

these offences. The research did however find that CCTV had merit in terms of detection and apprehension once a crime had occurred.

In support of CCTV anecdotal evidence from both retailers and landlords in Katoomba and Springwood Town Centres, both of which have public place CCTV (managed by their respective Chambers of Commerce), suggests that there has been a marked decrease in malicious damage. Local Police regularly request footage for use in detection and apprehension, and support its continued use in these town centres.

Blue Mountains City Council owns and operates CCTV systems within its public buildings and waste facilities as a security measure, however Council does not currently operate CCTV in public places. Given the significant financial and resources implications with the installation of CCTV and its limited success as a crime minimisation tool, Council would recommend all request for CCTV in public places be carefully considered in accordance with the NSW Attorney General's *"NSW Government Policy Statement and Guidelines for the Establishment and Implementation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in Public Places".*

2.2 CRIME PRIORITIES

The above analysis indicates the following crimes are a top priority for the Blue Mountains:

1. Malicious damage;
2. Break and enter dwelling; and
3. Arson.

Each of these crimes is reviewed in greater detail below.

2.2.1 Malicious Damage

Malicious damage including graffiti is a community wide issue and can cause people to feel unsafe and can create a perception that nobody cares about the area, if left unattended it may attract more vandalism, and even promote other more serious crime.

Malicious damage is broadly defined as the intentional 'destruction or defacement of public, commercial and private property'. Common forms of malicious damage include vandalism, such as breaking windows, knocking over letter boxes and graffiti. Graffiti is the act of marking property with writing, symbols or graphics and is illegal when committed without the property owners consent.

BOCSAR Statistics
The local crime analysis highlighted that malicious damage was the number one crime in the Blue Mountains with a downwards trend over a 60 month or 5 year period (2008 – 2012). It also demonstrated that the Blue Mountains ranked relatively high for malicious damage (55) across all 143 LGA's while the Blue Mountains LGA statistics are slightly higher than its neighbouring LGA of Penrith when comparing rates per 100,000 population.

When looking at graffiti alone, Blue Mountains ranked very high (7) across all LGA's for the period April 2012 to March 2013. The below table provides an overview of the top ten LGA's for graffiti incidents.

Incidents of Graffiti recorded by the NSW Police by LGA 2012-13		
LGA	Number of incidents	Rank
Wyong	495	1
Sydney	461	2
Blacktown	431	3
Lake Macquarie	363	4
Wollongong	348	5
Newcastle	340	6
Blue Mountains	339	7
Sutherland Shire	338	8
Penrith	322	9
Warringah	283	10

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

While the high rank is alarming, it is, in part the result of an active community that for many years have reported incidents of graffiti. Despite this, the incidents of graffiti in the Blue Mountains are significant and demonstrate a clear need to address the issue. The below table provides a breakdown of graffiti versus other malicious damage for the Blue Mountains LGA between 2008 to 2012.

Malicious Damage to Property type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Graffiti	468	374	434	246	294
Other malicious damage to property*	1021	975	910	807	720
Total	1489	1349	1344	1053	1014

*Includes the police incident categories of general 'Malicious Damage To Property', 'Malicious Damage - Public Place -Damage Fountain/Wall Etc' and 'Malicious Damage - Public Place - Damage Shrine/Monument'
Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

The above table demonstrates that graffiti is a significant component of the malicious damage reported but that malicious damage to property (non graffiti) dominates.

Blue Mountains Statistics
Council's graffiti database indicates that we have approximately 1,000 incidents of graffiti on Council property reported each year. The cost of removing graffiti from Council property such as buildings, bus shelters, signage and fencing is approximately $300,000 per annum.

Other Statistics
Recently VandalTrak (a not-for –profit public company) has developed a web-based graffiti management program where members of the public can report and upload images of graffiti. The intention of VandalTrak is to facilitate the incidence of reporting Graffiti and assist the NSW Police in gathering evidence and bringing offenders to justice. The Blue Mountains Local Area Command has supported this website since the beginning of 2012 and VandalTrak has supplied us with data indicating that there have been 2430 reports of graffiti incidents between 25 March 2012 and 8 July 2013.

Analysis of the data indicates that there are inconsistencies in the reporting of graffiti incidents between government and other private agencies and it is considered likely that some incidents are reported twice e.g. graffiti on Council assets reported to

VandalTrak are reported to Council and included in Council's database counting the incident twice. It is also likely, that due to public uncertainty of ownership of assets, there is confusion about where or how to report the crime and some people may be reluctant to report the crime at all in the Blue Mountains.

Blue Mountains Graffiti Management Plan
Given the high prevalence of graffiti in our community, Blue Mountains City Council developed the Graffiti Management Plan (2010). The objectives of this Plan are to provide a clear and consistent framework for the management of graffiti in the Blue Mountains LGA and to ensure:
- The Blue Mountains is a graffiti free City; and
- That graffiti is removed in a timely and efficient manner.

The Plan presents an integrated approach to graffiti management applying four principles which are intended to work together for an integrated response. In essence, no one principle can be successful without other principles occurring.

Below are the four principles of graffiti management and their objectives:
1. *Eradication:* to encourage the prompt removal of graffiti from all Council and non-Council owned facilities to ensure unsolicited graffiti does not remain;
2. *Engagement:* to encourage interested community members to become involved in initiatives and provide opportunities for legal art to contribute to the vibrancy of our town centres;
3. *Education:* to support and promote community information and education programmes surrounding graffiti management; and
4. *Enforcement:* to promote close working relationships between all community members, NSW Police and other relevant agencies to help establish, maintain and enforce initiatives that reduce incidents of graffiti in the City.

The Plan acknowledges:
- The contribution that murals or street art provides and offer opportunities for murals and street art to enhance our town centres; and
- That graffiti is not a Council issue but a whole community issue including State Agencies.

As a result Blue Mountains City Council has a number of active and effective graffiti initiatives including:
- Prompt removal of graffiti on Council owned assets;
- Support and management of four volunteer graffiti removal teams, whom remove graffiti from private property;
- A program that supports murals and street art in our town centres.

The Graffiti Management Plan is currently in the third year of its four year life span.

Given the significant impact of malicious damage on the community it is considered a priority crime to target as part of this Crime Prevention Plan.

Action Plan: Reducing Youth Alcohol Related Harm in the Blue Mountains
The 2008 report, "Blue Mountains Youth Mental Health Study" (available on Councils website) found an alarming rate of high risk (*the indicator includes those who consume alcohol and have had [11 or more if male/7 or more if female] drinks in a day)* and risky *(1 or more of the following: consuming alcohol every day, consuming on average more than [4 if male/2 if female] standard drinks, consuming*

more than [6 if male/4 if female] on any 1 occasion or day) drinking by Blue Mountains young men, far in excess of the NSW average (see Table 1).

Table 1:
Alcohol consumption for young people 16-24 years, NSW and the Blue Mountains, 2005-07

	High risk alcohol consumption		Risk alcohol consumption	
	NSW	Blue Mountains	NSW	Blue Mountains
Males 16-24 yrs	24.2%	51.1%	45.9%	66.1%
Females 16-24 yrs	15%	15.5%	39.4%	38.3%
Total	19.6%	28.4%	42.7%	48.3%

Source: NSW Population Health Survey 2007 (HOIST), Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health in Blue Mountains Division of General Practice, 2007.

In addition, BOCSAR data showed that over the ten year period 2001-2011 there was a marked upward trend in Alcohol Related Crime in the Blue Mountains (see Table 2).

Table 2:
Incidence and Trends in Alcohol Related Crime in the Blue Mountains, Oct 2001 – Sept 2011

Offence	*2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	% Change
Liquor offences	94	94	58	94	83	209	125	99	108	126	34%

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

The data also indicated that there were higher rates in various hotspots in the Blue Mountains which are consistent with the malicious damage hotspots identified by BOCSAR for 2010 (see Map 1).

To address this issue, Blue Mountains City Council has developed an Action Plan to Reduce Youth Alcohol Related Harm in the Blue Mountains. The objective of the plan is to develop local strategies and actions to Reduce Youth Alcohol Harm.

The emphasis is on a coordinated approach involving strong local collaborative partnerships. The Action Plan advocates a whole-of-Government and whole-of-community approach, involving stronger coordination between all three tiers of Government and the local community.

Council has recently completed a successful season of Midnight Basketball and supported other external educational programs such as 'idrink smart initiative' under this action plan.

2.2.2 Break & Enter Dwelling
Following malicious damage, break and enter dwelling is the next highest reported crime with 342 incidents in 2012. Trends for break and enter dwellings remain stable for the 5 year period with the Blue Mountains LGA ranked 77 out of 143 LGS's.

Through discussions with Police it is understood that break and enters are generally random opportunistic incidents that occur across the Blue Mountains with Katoomba and Blaxland being the areas of highest concentration. As there is a lack of pattern or repeat victimisation it is considered that this offence may be difficult to impact through this Crime Prevention Plan, however Council supports current Police Crime Prevention Education programs that deal with this issue.

2.2.3 Arson

In discussion with Local Area Command the crime of arson was also discussed as a priority for the Blue Mountains given its potential to endanger life, property and our natural environment. Our close proximity to National Park and bushland often results in acts of arson on high fire danger days and while these incidents (42 cases recorded during 2012) are not highlighted in the top six crimes, it is considered a concern for the Blue Mountains.

Although typically thought of as natural, bushfires are commonly the result of humans with up to 50% of bushfires deliberately lit or started in suspicious circumstances. Arson can cause damage to the natural environment, property and possibly even life. Arson is illegal and can lead to heavy penalties.
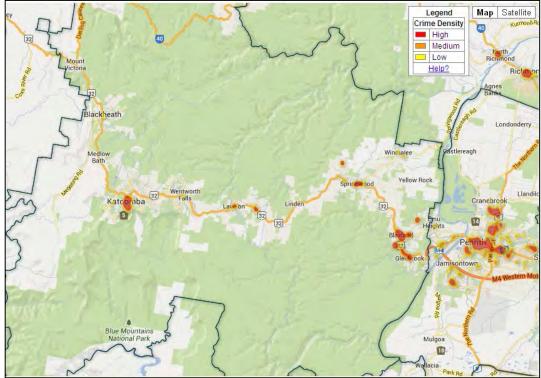
The analysis highlighted that BM LGA ranks 92 in the state for arson during the period of January - December 2012 with 42 incidences recorded. Trends for arson have remained stable over the last five years for the period of January 2008 - December 2012.

In isolation, it is considered that Council's capacity to make a meaningful difference to reducing the incidence of arson in the community would be limited. The reduction of arson would best be considered by the working group of the Bush Fire Management Committee that looks at fire origin and cause. Council will continue to work with the Blue Mountains Fire Management Committee to support programs that address this crime.

2.3   TOP CRIME PRIORITY – Malicious Damage

The following information reviews the crime of malicious damage in the Blue Mountains in greater detail. This analysis is considered important as it will then assist in developing appropriate actions in tackling this priority crime.

The following map and graphs together with other known statistics were obtained through BOCSAR reports.

Map 1: 2012 Blue Mountains Malicious Damage Hotspots (NSW BOCSAR)

The map above (Map1) clearly shows that incidents of malicious damage are concentrated in the Katoomba, Springwood, Blaxland and Glenbrook town centres. These town centres are some of our largest commercial areas and higher concentration of malicious damage is expected.
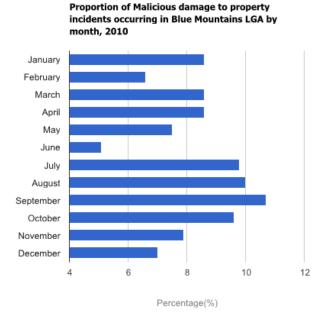

Figure 1: 2010 Proportion of malicious damage incidents by month.
Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Figure 1 provides a month by month analysis for incidents of malicious damage during 2010. It clearly shows that malicious damage increases significantly during September (spring) followed by the winter months (July and August).
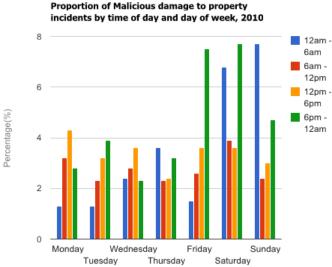
Proportion of Malicious damage to property incidents by time of day and day of week, 2010

Figure 2: 2010 Proportion of malicious damage incidents by day & time of week. Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Figure 2 provides a breakdown of incidents of malicious damage in terms of time of day / days of the week and demonstrates that late evening to early morning over weekends is the most popular period.

Figures 1 and 2 above demonstrate malicious damage trends from 2010 (year 3 of the 5 year period (2008-2012) being assessed as part of this plan). While, reported incidents of malicious damage have been on a downward trend over this 5 year period the trends demonstrated in the above graphs are fairly consistent year after year.

Local Police offer the following summary in relation to malicious damage:

- The highest proportion of malicious damage incidents occurs during September (Spring) followed by the winter months;
- Most incidents occurs between either 6pm and 12am or 12am and 6am (evening to late night hours);
- Most popular times of the day / days of the week are:
  - Sundays between 12am – 6am;
  - Fridays between 6pm – 12am;
  - Mondays between 12am – 6am; and
  - Saturdays 6pm – 6am.
- The above times correlate with the busy weekend periods which can see crime in other areas such as alcohol related crime and assaults increase;
- The three main hot spot areas are Katoomba, Blaxland and Springwood town centres;
- Premises that are targeted are varied and cover both public and private properties owners. The top four premises types to be affected are: residential 41.4%, outdoor/public place 15.3%, retail 12.1% and educational institutions 11.1%; and
- Malicious damage offenders are generally aged within the 10 – 39 year age range, with the 10 – 17 year age group responsible for the greatest number of incidents.

Graffiti specific
- Most popular times of the day / days of the week for graffiti are:
    - Saturdays 12 – 6am;
    - Monday 6am – 12am; and
    - Wednesday 6am – 12am.
- Offenders are commonly between the ages of 12-24years.

2.4   SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS – Malicious Damage
Environmental factors that may contribute to the higher levels of offending in the hot spot areas may include:
- Katoomba and Springwood are the main service centres for the Blue Mountains;
- Katoomba, Springwood and Blaxland have licensed liquor outlets, which may contribute to higher numbers of incidents of malicious damage. Liquor outlet numbers are as follows:
    - *Katoomba* – 3 hotels, 3 pubs, 5 liquor outlets, 1 bar and numerous licensed restaurants.
    - *Springwood* – 2 pubs, 2 liquor outlets and numerous licensed restaurants.
    - *Blaxland* – 2 hotels, 1 liquor outlet and numerous licensed restaurants.

- Blaxland has been identified as a larger hot spot over a number of years and the Police believe that this may be in part to a very active local community that regularly report incidents of graffiti in the town centre;
- The significantly high rate of alcohol consumption of young males aged 16-24 years in the Blue Mountains Region (see Table 1).
- A recent 'Alcohol Linking Monthly Report' (November 2012- April 2013) by the NSW Police, which records where an offender consumed their last alcoholic beverage, has revealed that one Katoomba licensed premise has a significantly higher (more than double) number of incidents than any other licensed premise in the Blue Mountains;
- Katoomba, Springwood and Blaxland are all close to transport (railways stations);
- The lack of late night public transport options; and
- Other environmental factors such as design may also contribute to the higher rates of malicious damage in some town centres. Factors such as poor or inappropriate lighting; maintenance, unoccupied dilapidated premises, surveillance opportunities and private / public land definitions may need to be reviewed through a Community Safety Audit.

2.5   STAKEHOLDERS
This Crime Prevention Plan was developed in consultation with key community stakeholders including the following groups:
- NSW Police – Blue Mountains Local Area Command;
- The Blue Mountains Community Safety Precinct Committee (which includes representatives of the following community groups: NSW Police, State Members, Council staff, Councillors and Neighbourhood Centres);
- The Graffiti Management Plan Working Party (which includes representatives of the volunteer graffiti removal teams and Council staff); and
- Relevant Council Staff.

The abovementioned stakeholders are committed to the proposed actions contained in Section 5.0 of this document.

| **3.0** | **ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION** |

This section outlines how the Blue Mountains community proposes to achieve the Plans objectives. These actions arise from community discussions and are viewed as the best way forward in combating malicious damage in our community.

Target Offence   Malicious Damage

PROJECT 1:   **MALICIOUS DAMAGE REDUCTION INITIATIVES**

Key elements to assist in the reduction of vandalism within the city include:
- Identify vandalism hotspots such as town centres, businesses and civic spaces;
- <mark>Encourage the prompt clean up and repairs associated with malicious damage;</mark>
- Carry out a Safety Audit in key hot spots;
- Council to implement treatments to reduce the risk of vandalism (in Council owned areas) such as improved lighting and improved definition of space;
- Educate and encourage shop owners to minimise potential for vandalism targeting their premises; and
- Implement Action Plan to Reduce Youth Alcohol Related Harm.

Rationale: Vandalism such as broken windows, damaged garden beds and slashed tyres affects both private and public property. The repair of vandalism is at considerable cost to property owners and has a significant impact on the public perception of safety.

Lead agency and Partners   NSW Police, Blue Mountains City Council, Property and Business Owners

Objective   To reduce incidents of vandalism and increase use of CPTED principles in hot spot areas minimising potential or damage from vandalism into the future.

Expected outcome   Reduced number of incidents across the LGA, improved perceptions of safety in the LGA and improved amenity throughout the area.

CPTED (anti vandalism treatments) implemented to a number of hot spot areas.

Performance measures   Performance measures to be used for this project are listed in the action plan in Section 5 below.

Target Offence:	Malicious Damage (Graffiti)

PROJECT 2:	**GRAFFITI REDUCTION INITIATIVES**

Key elements to build on the existing graffiti removal activities undertaken by Council, include:

- Re-establishment of internal Graffiti Working Group;
- Establishment of external Graffiti Working Group;
- Encourage and support community information and education programmes surrounding graffiti management;
- Support engagement programs that support interested community member to become involved in initiatives that help reduce incidents of graffiti and provide opportunities for legal art to contribute to the vibrancy of the Blue Mountains;
- Identify graffiti hotspots such as commuter car parks, toilet blocks and sportsground pavilions;
- Support State Agencies and community groups in developing graffiti reduction programs; and
- Identify range of alternative treatments to reduce the risk of graffiti at each hotspot, including public art opportunities, surface, landscape and lighting treatments and improved definition of space to better define public vs private or passive vs active spaces which in turn provides cues for appropriate behaviour within certain areas.

Rationale:	Graffiti costs society, not only in dollars, but also through peoples increased fear of crime and the destruction of public amenity. Council currently allocates $300,000 each year towards its graffiti removal program, with this expense expected to continue. The amount spent by State Agencies such as RailCorp and Sydney Water on annual graffiti removal and graffiti reduction programs is unknown but considered to be significant.
Lead agency and Partners	Blue Mountains City Council is the lead agency for this project but will work with Blue Mountains Local Area Command, volunteer graffiti removal programs, youth services organisations (MYST), State Agencies and business owners.
Objective	To reduce incidents of graffiti across the LGA over the next 3 years.
Expected outcome	Reduced number of incidents across the LGA, improved perceptions of safety in the LGA and improved amenity throughout the area. CPTED (anti vandalism treatments) implemented to a number of hot spot areas.
Performance Measures	Performance measures to be used for this project are listed in the action plan in Section 5 below.

4.0   MONITORING AND EVALUATING

This section outlines how the Blue Mountains community, in particular Council will monitor and evaluate the Plans objectives.

PROJECT 1 – MALICIOUS DAMAGE REDUCTION INITATIVES

Monitoring
Council will monitor the ongoing implementation of the Project by focussing on:
- Reduction of vandalism incidents based on data collected prior to implementation of the plan, and historical data; and
- Review of the NSW Police crime statistics and health statistics (youth alcohol consumption) to confirm reduction over three years.

Evaluation
Council will evaluate the implementation of the program by reviewing:
- BOCSAR and LAC crime statistics.
- Youth Alcohol Consumption statistics.

PROJECT 2 – GRAFFITI REDUCTION INITATIVES

Monitoring
Council will monitor the ongoing implementation of the Project, focussing on:
- Reduction of graffiti incidents based on data collected prior to implementation of the plan, and historical data; and
- Review of NSW Police crime, VandalTrak statistics and Council records to confirm reduction over three years.

Evaluation and data collection
Council will evaluate the implementation of the program by reviewing:
- Council's monthly graffiti removal records;
- Volunteer graffiti removal teams graffiti removal records; and
- BOCSAR, VandalTrak and LAC crime statistics.

5.0   CRIME PREVENTION ACTION PLAN

PROJECT 1:   **Malicious damage reduction initiative**
Expected outcome: Incidents of malicious damage to property reduced over a three year period

No	Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding Required	Milestones
5.1.1	Conduct 2 CPTED audits of hot spot areas per annum and implement one recommendation (definition of space, lighting, surface treatment etc) per audit.	• Security assessment/audits in the target areas before and after treatment. • Improvement in the amenity of the City.	6 monthly	Staff time	• CPTED audit conducted. • Funds identified to implement treatments. • Treatments implemented.
5.1.2	Business owners (via Chambers of Commerce or similar) encouraged to implement CPTED principles (e.g. Leave lights on at front of shops and install anti-graffiti film to shop windows).	• Reduction in malicious damage offences in the target areas. • Improvement in the amenity of the area. • Decrease in resident and business owner concern about malicious damage (survey before and after).	Ongoing	Staff time	• Application of CPTED principles in precinct reviews.
5.1.3	Any new requests for installation of public place CCTV in our major town centres are assessed on a case by case basis in line with the NSW Attorney General's Guidelines for the establishment of CCTV in Public Places.	• Only areas of high crime have CCTV installed after careful consideration. • CCTV contributes to the apprehension / prosecution of offenders. • Reduction in malicious damage offences in target areas.	As required	Staff time / Grant	• Other (non CCTV) crime minimisation strategies are implemented. • Need for CCTV assessed against future ongoing costs such as management and maintenance. • Need for CCTV assessed against NSW Attorney General's Guidelines for CCTV in Public Places. • Grant applied for and successful.

No	Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding Required	Milestones
					• CCTV installed and usefulness monitored.
5.1.4	Implement CPTED training for relevant Council Officers in development assessment, design and delivery of project.	• Reduction in the number of reported graffiti incidents to Council and the graffiti crime statistics. • CPTED principles incorporated into day to day work. • Improvement in the amenity of the City.	Ongoing	Training budget	• Those in need of training identified. • Training conducted.
5.1.5	Investigate the requirement for a more thorough CPTED assessment of new public buildings and urban spaces including the need for Community Safety Audits on new Civic and Commercial Buildings.	• Reduction in the number of reported graffiti incidents to Council and the graffiti crime statistics. • CPTED principles incorporated into day to day work. • Improvement in the amenity and perceived public safety of the City.	Ongoing	Staff time	• Trigger established in the planning assessment process to complete detailed CPTED assessment.
5.1.6	Rapid clean up and repairs of malicious damage in our town centres. (Council owned assets only).	• 20% reduction in the number of incidents lodged with Council over a three year period.	Ongoing	Council	• Rapid removal of malicious damage and subsequent repairs (where possible) completed within a reasonable timeframe.
5.1.7	Council to review / test new anti-vandalism materials or products that could be used in commercial settings.	• Reduction in reports of vandalism on Council owned property.	Ongoing	Staff time	• Applications where improvement in maintenance and amenity of the area discourages incidences of vandalism.
5.1.8	Police Crime Prevention Program (supported by Council and Chambers of Commerce) to produce educational material /	• Reduction in malicious damage crime statistics in the area.	Police to determine campaign timeframe	External funding	• Community implements actions to prevent opportunities for vandalism.

No	Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding Required	Milestones
	awareness campaign on how to reduce vandalism through visits to community events, shopping centres and in Council newsletters.		January and July rates notice for newsletter	Staff time	
5.1.9	Implement Councils Action Plan: To Reduce Youth Alcohol Related Harm through education programs, collaboration with Liquor Accords (e.g. enforcement of RSA and reduced opening hours) and provision of youth entertainment.	• Reduction in malicious damage crime statistics in the area (in particular alcohol related crime) particularly in the identified hot spots. • Improvement in male youth alcohol consumption statistics for the area.	Ongoing	Staff time	• Reduction in risk factors and motivation for offenders.
5.1.10	Investigate and advocate the State Government for late night transport options in hot spot areas.	• Reduction in malicious damage crime statistics in the hot spot areas.	Ongoing	External funding	• Reduction of risk factors and motivation for offenders.
5.1.11	Continue to support Police patrols in known hot spots, as priority allows.	• Reduction in the number of reported malicious damage incidents to Council and the malicious damage crime statistics.	Ongoing	Staff time	• Deters incidents and increases likelihood of offenders being brought to justice.
5.1.12	Support the continuation of programs such as Midnight Basketball and other activities that provide alternative outlets for at risk young people.	• Reduction in malicious damage and antisocial offences in target areas. • Increase numbers of young people participating in positive youth programs.	Ongoing	Staff time, funding from Midnight Basketball Australia and other sources.	• Young people at risk become mentors to younger participants, and volunteer at future tournaments.
5.1.13	Continue to work with key stakeholders, and especially	• Reduction in incidence of underage drinking and secondary supply.	Ongoing	Staff time, external	• Multi stakeholder Strategy developed by YMISA

No	Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding Required	Milestones
	the Police and Youth Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Network (YMISA) to address alcohol related youth crime, including underage drinking and secondary supply.	• Reduction in numbers of young people presenting to services with drug and alcohol issues. • Reduction in malicious damage and antisocial offences in target areas.		grant funding where possible	(including Police Youth Liaison Officer) targeting underage drinking and secondary supply.
5.1.14	Continue to work with the Blue Mountains Liquor Accords and other stakeholders to reduce the incidence of antisocial behaviour in licenced premises.	• Reduction in malicious damage and antisocial offences in target areas. • Production of resources (e.g. coasters and posters) and other educational materials promoting pro-social behaviour in and around licenced premises.	Ongoing	Staff time, external funding from Liquor Accords and other bodies	• Production and dissemination of local educational material throughout licenced premises.

PROJECT 2:   **Graffiti reduction initiative**
Expected outcome: Incidents of graffiti to property reduced over a three year period

No	Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding Required	Milestones
5.2.1	Rapid removal of offensive graffiti and graffiti in hotspot areas. (Council owned assets only).	• 20% reduction in the number of incidents lodged with Council over a three year period.	Ongoing	Council	• Removal of offensive and hot spot graffiti from identified locations to be completed within 48 hours.
5.2.2	Re-establish the internal Graffiti Working Group to co-ordinate and manage graffiti matters across Council	• Reduction in the number of reported graffiti incidents to Council and the graffiti crime statistics. • Improved coordination of graffiti matters across groups of concern. • Improvement in the amenity of the City <mark>including smaller town centres, villages and recreational areas.</mark>	Ongoing	Council	• Meetings held quarterly and program developed to coordinate activities / implement this document / seek funds to complete works etc.
5.2.3	Establish the external Graffiti Working Group to coordinate graffiti matters across the City including: • Volunteer removal groups; • Support of youth street art murals; and • Sharing of ideas / morale for all stakeholders.	• Reduction in the number of reported graffiti incidents to Council and the graffiti crime statistics. • Decrease in resident and business owner concern about graffiti crime in the area. • Increase sense of ownership for locals. • Improvement in the amenity of the City.	Ongoing	Council $1,000 per group per annum	• Terms of reference established. • Program developed to coordinate activities and share information. • Funds identified to implement initiatives.
5.2.4	Investigate the provision of free graffiti removal kits for local residents.	• If implemented, monitor outcomes of a trial. If successful continue to provide free graffiti removal kits.	Trial for 12 months	Council	• More timely removal of graffiti to prevent the attraction of further incidents.
5.2.5	Support annual Graffiti Action Day within the City to raise awareness about how to reduce / remove graffiti.	• Reduction in the number of reported graffiti incidents to Council and the graffiti crime statistics. • Decrease in resident and business	Ongoing (annually)	Council $1,000 per annum	• Annual day organised by Council with the support of local police and volunteer groups.

No	Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding Required	Milestones
		owner concern about graffiti crime in the area. • Improvement in the amenity of the City.			
5.2.6	Support the use of community murals / street art in highly targeted Council and non Council assets such as traffic signal boxes, bus shelters and toilet blocks.	• Reduction of graffiti in the hot spot area and an improvement in the amenity of those areas. • Increased sense of ownership by young people involved in completion of murals / street art.	Ongoing	Grant funded	• Hot spots identified. • Mural / street art commissioned. • Mural / street art completed.
5.2.7	Annual aerosol art competition / art show or similar.	• Annual aerosol art competition (or similar) is held and highlights contribution by young people to the community.	Ongoing (Annually)	Grant funded	• Grant application made. • Grant successful. • Art competition / show held with input from young people.
5.2.8	Investigate possible use of juvenile offenders in the removal of graffiti through liaison with the Justice Community Service.	• Reduction in the number of reported graffiti incidents to Council and the graffiti crime statistics. • Reduction in repeat offenders. • Improvement in the amenity of the City.	Ongoing	External funding	• Offenders realise the impacts and effects of their actions.
5.2.9	Encourage and support Graffiti Education Programs in local schools by the Police and the Mountain Youth Services Team (MYST).	• Reduction in the number of reported graffiti incidents to Council and the graffiti crime statistics.	Ongoing (Annually)	External funding	• Young people are educated on the negative impacts/consider implications of their actions.
5.2.10	Encourage and support graffiti engagement programmes including: • Legal art and youth diversion programs;	• Increased participation from interested community members in graffiti management. • Reduction in the number of reported graffiti incidents to Council and the	Ongoing	Grant funded / Council	• Community given opportunity to be involved and educated on graffiti management opportunities.

No	Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding Required	Milestones
	• Volunteer graffiti removal programs; and • Residential graffiti removal kits.	graffiti crime statistics.			
5.2.11	Sharing information with NSW Police and VandalTrak and investigate mechanisms to improve reporting of malicious damage to reduce multiple reports for the same incidents and provide a clearer picture on the problem.	• Increase in the amount of offenders receiving penalties for graffiti crimes. • Improved partnership between Council, Police and VandalTrak. • Clearer understanding on graffiti statistics.	Ongoing	Staff time	• Offenders are brought to justice. • Reduced confusion on how and who to report malicious damage.

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