QUEENSLAND CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY – BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES

Laree Verra/LV : 10/21/3-16:#1721305

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the signing of the Queensland Crime Prevention Strategy – Building Safer Communities Statement of Intent

INTRODUCTION:

The Queensland Community Crime Prevention Strategy – Building Safer Communities aims through leadership and support to establish innovative, evidence-based, targeted crime prevention across government and community. Building Safer Communities Action Teams (BSCATs) are the mechanism at the local level for implementation of the Community Crime Prevention Strategy. BSCATs are supported at the local and regional levels by a Senior Community Crime Prevention Officer based in each region. The Senior Community Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) in the Cairns region has had a close collaborative relationship with the Council’s Community Safety Officer (CSO) for some time and regularly contributes to Council’s Community Safety Committee.

BACKGROUND:

A previous report regarding Council’s proposed commitment to the BSCAT was presented to the SACCS committee for consideration in May. Concerns were raised around existing Council commitments to groups concerned with crime prevention and how the addition of a new structure would impact. Attached is a table outlining the groups:

- Crime Prevention Safety Issues Team (CPSIT)
- Building Safer Communities Action Team (BSCAT) - proposed
- Cairns Regional Council Community Safety Committee
- CBD Safety Summit
- CBD Taskforce

Each group is described within the matrix clearly outlining: the purpose of each group; membership; role of Council and benefits to Council participation.
COMMENT:

Concerning the attached matrix of existing crime prevention groups it should be noted that the BSCAT agenda will be captured within the existing Crime Prevention Safety Issue Team (CPSIT) under the SAFE Communities overarching framework. It is envisaged that CPSIT meetings, agendas and minutes will continue as planned but will include the BSCAT items. This will ensure an efficient approach by utilising already committed Council resources for additional outcomes. By utilising the existing collaborative relationships within the CPSIT structure to forward the strategic goals of BSCAT Council avoids unnecessary duplication of efforts and is more able to effectively channel community resources towards coherent outcomes.

The CBD Safety Summit and the CBD Taskforce outlined in the attached matrix are community driven and are CBD specific. Council has been an active member of the CBD Safety Summit for the last four years and the group is invaluable for facilitating operational communication between the Police, Security providers, Council and the Licensee Safety Association. It is also the main vehicle by which the very successful City Safe program has been implemented through the collaboration of stakeholders on operational elements of the program. The proposed CBD Taskforce has been instigated by the Chamber of Commerce. Despite continued invitation from the CBD Safety Summit, the Chamber of Commerce have consistently resisted becoming active stakeholders in the CBD Safety Summit. The two groups do appear to have overlapping aims. Information is unavailable to the writer at this time to conclude what role Council is likely to play and what value can be added to CBD outcomes from participation in this group in addition to the CBD Safety Summit.

Strategic Direction via the BSCAT

A careful examination of the matrix will reveal that there is also a strategic planning function lacking in the existing groups which focus on the region as a whole. Crime prevention initiatives in order to be effective in the long term need to be strategic in their implementation, addressing issues from both situational intervention and community development intervention perspectives. Preventative efforts that fall short of addressing the fundamental sources of criminality generally do no more than effect crime distribution throughout a community. Ideally crime prevention strategies must also affect long term change at each level of intervention: micro, meso and macro. It is hoped that the pooled resources and knowledge base within stakeholders channelled into an appropriate strategic framework such as BSCAT will give the region the ability to affect long term change.

The Role of Local Government in Crime Prevention

Local government has for over a decade been recognised as the most appropriate body to galvanise community resources to address specific issues at the coal face level of a community. The Local Government Association of Queensland acknowledge the commitment of local government in crime prevention in their policy 7.1.2 Community Safety. The Australian Institute of Criminology acknowledge the vital role of local government in effective crime prevention strategies stating:

*“Local government performs many functions in our society and crime prevention has become a key activity for this sector of government.”*
For our crime prevention activities to work, they must be evidence-based and built on knowledge derived from research. Crime prevention activities, wherever they take place, should be accountable, and their impacts subject to rigorous assessment.

In order to reduce crime the following points should be remembered:

- **The police alone cannot control crime and disorder**
- **No single agency can control crime and disorder**
- **Agencies with a contribution to reducing crime and disorder need to work in partnership**
- **Evidence-based problem solving approaches promise the most effective approach to reducing crime and disorder**
- **Problems of crime and disorder are complex, and there are therefore no panaceas**
- **Crime and disorder problems need to be understood in their local contexts and strategies thus need to be locally tailored.**

“Many of these activities firmly involve local government, and give that domain a significant role in part of the criminality reduction process. Local government can be a catalyst for change and a vehicle for the establishment of partnerships with other key agencies. Through its role in local planning, environmental management, economic development, urban design, and community service provision, local government is close to the community and influences many of the things that matter to determining how people live.” [http://www.aic.gov.au/research/cvp/localgovt/](http://www.aic.gov.au/research/cvp/localgovt/)

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

**Corporate and Operational Plans:**

The following extracts from the Cairns City Council Corporate Plan 2005-2009 refer:

6.1 A comprehensive and coordinated approach to improving community health and safety.

6.1.3 Develop an Annual Community Safety Plan that is supported and informed by integrated community well-being planning processes and which incorporates a focus on safety in public spaces.

6.2.2 Work with the State Government to improve safety in Cairns, including the Cairns CBD and suburbs with high crime rates, through various initiatives.

Community safety is an activity funded within the Community Development Unit of Council's Sport, Recreation and Community Development Branch.
Financial and Risk:

Upon endorsement of the Statement of Intent Cairns Regional Council would be eligible for $20,000 seed funding to enable the development, in conjunction with stakeholders, a regional crime prevention strategy. Council will be responsible for ongoing secretariat support and will provide an appropriate venue and catering. This commitment will be funded through existing resources given the operational link to the CPSIT.

Once the development of the strategy is complete Council will partner with other agencies to facilitate the implementation of projects identified in the strategy to address crime prevention issues particular to this region. Funding submissions will be submitted through the state government Building Safer Communities Strategy. Should the funding not be approved within this state government stream Council is under no commitment to undertake the funding of these projects.

Sustainability:

Entering into formal partnerships with the State Government to address community concerns enhances Council’s capacity into the future. State Government utilise formal partnerships of this type to promote community sustainability by resourcing local government for on the ground initiatives.

CONSULTATION:

Cairns Regional Council Community Safety Committee Members including:
Queensland Police Service
Cairns City Licensees Safety Association
CBD Safety Summit
Department of Housing – Community Renewal
Liquor Licensing

OPTIONS:

That Council endorse the Queensland Crime Prevention Strategy – Building Safer Communities Statement of Intent as an appropriate vehicle for the implementation of regional strategic crime prevention initiatives.

That Council not endorse the Queensland Crime Prevention Strategy – Building Safer Communities Statement of Intent.

CONCLUSION:

There is merit in Council endorsement of the Building Safer Communities Action Teams (BSCATs) Statement of Intent.
ATTACHMENTS:

#1720983 “Matrix of existing groups for attachment to the second BSCAT report to June SACCs”
#1692250 “BSCAT Statement of Intent”
#1686486 “BSCAT Roles and Responsibilities”

Laree J Verra
Community Safety Officer

Ms Dalitta Ash
Acting Manager Sport, Recreation & Community Development

Ian Lowth
General Manager Community and Cultural Services
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP NAME</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
<th>ROLE OF COUNCIL</th>
<th>BENEFITS TO COUNCIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Crime Prevention Safety Issues Team (CPSIT) | • Operates under Safe Communities banner  
• Ascertain through evidence base crime prevention issues  
• Knowledge of existing strategies  
• Coordinate appropriate responses by sharing resources  
• Regional scope  
• Partnership with broad range of community groups | • Queensland Police – Crime Prevention Officer  
• Dept. of Communities  
• Cairns Regional DV Service  
• CRC  
• Dept Child Safety  
• Relationships Aust  
• Wu Chepperen  
• Edward Koch Foundation  
• Cairns Regional Sexual Assault Service  
• Neighbourhood Watch | Community Safety Officer (CSO) sits on Team  
Provides overarching Safe Communities structure | Information sharing from wide variety of community stakeholders  
Diverse expertise  
Partnership building  
Shared resources  
Assist in the accreditation of the Cairns as a WHO International SAFE community |
| Building Safer Communities Action Team (BSCAT): NB: Utilising the existing meeting structure of the CPSIT | • As above  
• Formalise existing relationships  
• Development of regional strategic crime prevention plan | As above, however subject to expansion as strategic crime prevention plan is developed and implemented | Providing secretariat support to the BSCAT;  
Providing an appropriate venue and catering for meetings of the BSCAT;  
Including Council staff as active members of the BSCAT; and  
Sharing relevant research and planning information.  
Contribute to the operation of a Regional Building Safer Communities Network through the sharing of ideas, information and resources | Access to funding stream for strategic initiatives in partnership with other govt agencies and community organisations  
The opportunity to contribute to local, regional and state-wide action on crime prevention  
Partnership building  
Being recognised as a formal part of the Strategic Framework for Community Crime Prevention  
Being part of a state-wide network of BSCATS |
| **CRC Community Safety Committee** | **Doterra such as meeting venues and catering.**  
Administer funds on behalf of the Building Safer Communities Action Teams to implement the Building Safer Communities Action Plan.  
Incorporate, where relevant and appropriate, crime prevention policy and program implementation into Council policy and program delivery. | **Focuses on addressing crime related issues and problems.**  
Access to training and peer support through the Strategic Framework’s Learning and Development Program. |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **To utilise existing networks and to identify additional stakeholders to promote the sharing of personal and social safety knowledge and expertise.**  
**To assist in the identification, development, evaluation and/or promotion of sustainable programs addressing personal and social safety issues in our**  
- Queensland Health  
- Queensland Police  
- SSOIC City Beat  
- CRC  
- ERGON  
- Liquor Licensing  
- Neighbourhood Watch  
- ATSI Elder Group  
- TTNG  
- Indigenous Coordination Centre  
- Sunbus  
- Cairns City Licensee Safety Association  
- CBD Safety Summit  
- Department of Emergency Services | **The CSC, through the Community Safety Officer or other Council staff, shall provide recommendations that are to be submitted to Council for consideration.**  
The Council may or may not accept or act upon any recommendation of the Community Safety Committee.  
Council will continue to convene the CSC. | **Opportunity for Council to promote partnerships with other agencies.**  
Provides opportunities for Council to gather information concerning existing and emerging issues  
Consultation with the community around their needs and issues |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community.</th>
<th>Department of Communities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To promote a safer city where everyone works together in a multi-agency partnership to create a more secure and safer place to live, work and play.</td>
<td>Community Renewal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To assist relevant agencies in the reduction of crime and the fear of crime, and injury from intentional causes including violence, alcohol-related violence, vandalism and burglary.</td>
<td>Department of Transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To advise and offer guidance to the work of the Council Community Safety Officer.</td>
<td>Cairns Sun</td>
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<tr>
<td>To increase community awareness of personal, property and social safety which will contribute to the decrease of personal and social injury.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify priority areas and assist with the strategic monitoring of safety issues across the Cairns Regional Council Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBD Safety Summit</td>
<td>CBD Taskforce</td>
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<td>-------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>- To reduce alcohol related hard to the community and improve the safety and amenity of the Cairns CBD for the city's citizens, visiting tourists and persons working in the locality</td>
<td>- To bring together key individuals and organisations to improve the Cairns CBD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cairns City Licensee Safety Association</td>
<td>- Unknown at this stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- City Beat Qld Police</td>
<td>- To collate, distribute and present factual information regarding the Cairns CBD (e.g. statistics on crime)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Black and White Taxi's</td>
<td>- Unknown at this stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- CRC CBD Security Provider</td>
<td>- To act as a focal point for discussions with Government (at all levels) on matters relating to the Cairns CBD.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- CRC Inner City Facilities</td>
<td>- Undertake projects to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- CRC Safety Officer</td>
<td>- Opportunity for Council to promote partnerships with other agencies in CBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- MacDonnell's Lawyers</td>
<td>- Provides opportunities for Council to gather information concerning existing and emerging issues in CBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Restaurant and Caterers Association</td>
<td>- Consultation with the community around their needs and issues in the CBD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NB: This group is initiated by the Chamber of Commerce they have repeatedly refused to interact with the existing CBD Safety Summit which promotes the same aims.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improve the CBD.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify issues and develop solutions relevant to businesses operating in the CBD. For example:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Safety</td>
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<td>• Parking</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Lighting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Footpaths</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Landscaping</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Appearance of public and private buildings and infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ATTACHMENT 2: - BSCAT Statement of Intent

Queensland Crime Prevention Strategy - Building Safer Communities
Strategic Framework for Community Crime Prevention

STATEMENT OF INTENT
2008

The Strategic Framework for Community Crime Prevention promotes the following features of good practice in community crime prevention:

- the pivotal role of local government in its implementation;
- strategic oversight and support through central government co-ordination and resources for capacity building to partner in community crime prevention;
- state-wide, regional and local cross agency collaboration and alignment in policy and program development, implementation and investment of resources;
- state-wide, regional and local cross sector involvement in preventing crime.

This Statement of Intent describes the intention of the Queensland Government and Cairns Regional Council to share responsibility for preventing crime and building safer communities.

Responsibilities – Cairns Regional Council

1. Support the operation of the Building Safer Communities Action Teams (BSCAT) Cairns region by:
   - providing secretariat support to the BSCAT;
   - providing an appropriate venue and catering for meetings of the BSCAT;
   - including Council staff as active members of the BSCAT; and
   - sharing relevant research and planning information.

2. Contribute to the operation of a Regional Building Safer Communities Network through the sharing of ideas, information and resources such as meeting venues and catering.

3. Administer funds on behalf the Building Safer Communities Action Teams to implement the Building Safer Communities Action Plan.

4. Incorporate, where relevant and appropriate, crime prevention policy and program implementation into Council policy and program delivery.

5. Communicate publicly on BSCAT achievements in partnership with the Queensland Police Service Media policies and procedures.
Responsibilities - Queensland Government

1. Local and regional leadership, facilitation, advice and support to the BSCAT and the Regional Building Safer Communities Network through the Senior Community Crime Prevention Officer.

2. Local and regional capacity building for community, business and government sector stakeholders involved in BSCAT activity through the Building Safer Communities Learning and Development Strategy.

3. Seed funds to the Council to support the operation of the BSCAT and broker implementation of the Building Safer Communities Action Plan.

4. Strategic oversight and support through central government program management.

5. Facilitation of state-wide, regional and local cross agency collaboration and alignment in policy and program development, implementation and investment of resources.

6. Facilitation of state-wide, regional and local cross sector involvement in preventing crime.


8. Program monitoring and evaluation.


SIGNED

Ms Val Schier
Mayor
Cairns Regional Council
Date: / / 2008

The Honourable Ms Judy Spence
Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport
Queensland Government
Date: / / 2008
ATTACHMENT 3: - BSCAT Roles and Responsibilities

Queensland Crime Prevention Strategy - *Building Safer Communities*

Strategic Framework for Community Crime Prevention

RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

1. **BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES ACTION TEAMS (BSCATS)**
   
   **Purpose of BSCATs**
   
   The BSCAT is the mechanism at the local level for implementation of the Community Crime Prevention Program.

   BSCATs are a valuable resource for their respective communities. They play an important role in:
   - engaging key community stakeholders in the development of localised outcome focused action plans
   - providing a mechanism for two way consultation and communication between communities and governments on crime and safety issues and their impact on the community
   - facilitating co-ordinated action on crime prevention both locally and across the State
   - building strong alliances between community interest groups.

   **Role of BSCATs**
   
   BSCATs will:
   - represent key stakeholder groups in the local community
   - establish a link to the Regional *Building Safer Communities* Network
   - using the Regional and Local Community Crime Prevention Profile as a basis, consult widely with the community to identify crime prevention issues and priorities for action
   - develop, oversee implementation and evaluate a Local Community Crime Prevention Action Plan
   - contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the Strategic Framework for Community Crime Prevention.

   **Defining features of BSCATs**
   
   The BSCAT has the following defining features:
   - an explicit commitment to a partnership approach between public, business and community sectors
   - a focus on intervention at the local community level, targeting local needs and circumstances
   - community participation in the identification of local problems and their solutions
   - recognition of the pivotal role of local government.

   BSCATs promote multi agency co-ordination in planning and delivery of services relevant to crime prevention and community safety.

   BSCATs are supported at the local and regional levels by a Senior Community Crime Prevention Officer (Queensland Police Service) based in each region. At the state-wide level, BSCATs are supported by the Crime Prevention Policy Unit, Office of the Commissioner of Police, through strategic, financial and training support and information and advice on crime prevention.
Principles for BSCATs

BSCATs are committed to:

- developing the strategic direction and priorities and guiding local action on crime prevention initiatives
- developing partnerships with agencies, business and community organisations and government
- developing innovative, integrated and sustainable crime prevention initiatives
- building local community capacity to respond effectively to crime related issues
- working towards a reduction in crime and victimization.

Benefits of BSCATs

Local crime prevention is a shared responsibility. The BSCATs provide the opportunity for communities to take positive action to prevent crime, working with and supported by the Queensland Government.

Citizens will benefit from participating in, or contributing to, local BSCATs. Benefits will include:

- the opportunity to contribute to local, regional and state-wide action on crime prevention
- building relationships with others who share the same commitment to crime prevention
- being recognised as a formal part of the Strategic Framework for Community Crime Prevention
- being part of a state-wide network of BSCATS focussed on addressing crime related issues and problems
- being part of a problem solving approach
- access to training through the Strategic Framework's Learning and Development Program and other resources, workshops, forums and conferences.

Characteristics of a BSCAT

BSCAT membership represents the local business sector, community service providers, relevant line agencies, Police, Council staff, key community groups. It is advisable that membership does not exceed 12 people.

Where possible, membership is to represent young people, indigenous people and, where relevant, other marginalised groups. Engagement with these groups may be more effective through time limited BSCAT Working Groups or BSCAT links to existing groups or networks. The focus of BSCAT Working Groups will be to develop solutions to a specific issue or problem as part of the BSCAT Action Planning process.

(a) Membership

Where possible, BSCAT members must be individuals with the capacity to:

- commit to actively participating in the BSCAT until an ongoing basis
- promote strategic priority alignment in addressing local and regional crime prevention issues
- contribute to the action planning process by prioritising issues based on evidence, the outcomes of consultation and risk analysis
- make strategic decisions on behalf of their organisation
- promote co-ordination of initiatives and resources available at local and regional levels and mobilise resources
- link to BSCAT working groups.

(b) Meetings, Secretariat and the Action Plan

BSCATs will meet monthly or as required. Minutes of meetings, correspondence and maintenance of records and the Action Plan are the responsibility of the Council.
(c) **Chairing the BSCAT**
The chairing of BSCAT meetings is to be rotated through the members.

(d) **Media/Communication**
BSCAT members (excluding the Senior Community Crime Prevention Officer) are entitled to speak with the media regarding their participation in this program. However, the Queensland Police Service, as the responsible funding agency and program administrator, reserves the right to make public statements on behalf of the BSCAT. Where this is the case, statements must be fully authorised in accordance with the Department's media protocol. This includes media relating to key BSCAT/program outcomes.

The BSCAT will consult widely when required to gauge issues and identify needs. Community consultation will provide an impetus to guide the development of Action Plans in prioritising relevant crime prevention issues for the local community.

(e) **Term**
The BSCAT operation and membership will be reviewed annually.

2. **BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES REGIONAL NETWORK (BSC REGIONAL NETWORK)**

One Building Safer Communities Regional Network will be established in each region. The purpose of the BSC Regional Network is to provide the opportunity to:

- represent local BSCATs in the region
- engage with elected representatives to workshop crime prevention issues on a regional basis
- identify and coordinate relevant regional action arising from local BSCAT Action Plans
- provide information and share ideas on key crime prevention issues for the region
- participate in a forum for learning and development on crime prevention

(a) **Membership**
Includes representation from local BSCATs, elected representatives, regional managers of government departments, representatives of regional organisations/networks.

(b) **Meetings**
BSC Regional Network meetings will be held quarterly or more frequently as required. Minutes of these meetings are the responsibility of the SCCPO. Facilitation of meetings is to be negotiated by the SCCPO.

(c) **Media/Communication**
The Regional BSC Network will provide relevant information on its achievements to the broader community and consult widely when required.

Regional BSC Network members will identify appropriate spokespersons to provide public statements as required. Public statements made by the spokespersons must be authorised in accordance with the Department of Communities media protocol.

(d) **Term**
The BSC Network operation and membership will be reviewed annually.