



INVERELL
SHIRE COUNCIL

Crime Prevention Plan





INVERELL

SHIRE COUNCIL CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

Version Control

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V 1.0	June 2017	Management Team	Draft
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SHIRE COUNCIL CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

Contents

1	Introduction	4
2	Crime Demographics	4
2.1	Prevalent Crimes by Type	4
2.2	Prevalent Crime Comparison – Inverell LGA to NSW	7
2.3	Prevalent Crime Comparison – Inverell/Tamworth/Armidale	9
2.4	Offender Profile	11
3	Illicit Drug Crime	13
4	Prevalent Crime Trends	20
5	Existing and Previous Crime Prevention Strategies	25
6	Crime Prevention Plan	28
6.1	Aims and Objectives	28
7	Community Strategic Plan	30
8	Action Items	31
9	Appendix 1	35



1 Introduction

The Inverell Shire Council's *Crime Prevention Plan* has been developed to assist in the detection and prevention of criminal activity in the Inverell Local Government Area (LGA). The plan is founded upon the Destinations and Strategies outlined in *Inverell Shire's Road Map for the Future 2009-2029 Community Strategic Plan* and adheres to the NSW Government, Department of Justice's guidelines for developing a crime prevention strategy. This document will assist in the detection of prevalent crimes within the Shire and draws focus upon the types of perpetrators committing these offences. Conveying an understanding of crime and offenders will ultimately allow for the development and implementation of practical initiatives aimed at reducing criminal activity, creating a safer community. Safer communities are part of the NSW State Plan that aims to reduce violent crime, with a goal of all NSW LGAs to have stable or falling reported violent crime rates by 2019.

2 Crime Demographics

The following utilises a range of data presented by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) to identify the severity and prevalence of criminal activity within the Inverell LGA. The analysis of such data is fundamental in recognising opportunities for strategic intervention and strategy implementation directed at reducing criminal activity.

2.1 Prevalent Crimes by Type

Criminal activity varies across a broad spectrum of potential offences. Identifying and analysing crimes of prevalence ensures an adequate examination of criminal activity and offenders in any given location. Although this technique does not identify all crimes committed in an area, it does provide an accurate insight into the most dominant and frequently committed offences within the community. Prevalent crimes are identified as those that have a regular offence occurrence locally and/or statewide or that place an LGA within the top 25% of the *NSW Crime Offenders Ranking*.

As such, thirteen (13) offences have been identified as prevalent within the Inverell LGA based on the top 25% of the *NSW Crime Offenders Ranking*. It is critical to assess criminal activity, in regards to the *NSW Crime Offenders Ranking*, in order to identify and prioritise offences that pose the biggest risk to the well-being of the community. Graph 1 ascertains the Inverell LGA's *NSW Crime Offenders Ranking* for all prevalent criminal activity within its realms whilst simultaneously providing a five (5) year overview of their occurrence.



INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

This data identifies the top five (5) prevalent crimes in the Inverell LGA, based on rank, as; Steal from dwelling, Assault (Non DV), Malicious Damage to Property, other theft and break and enter into non dwelling.

Graph 1: Number of Incidents by Type in Inverell & NSW LGA Rank (130 LGA's).

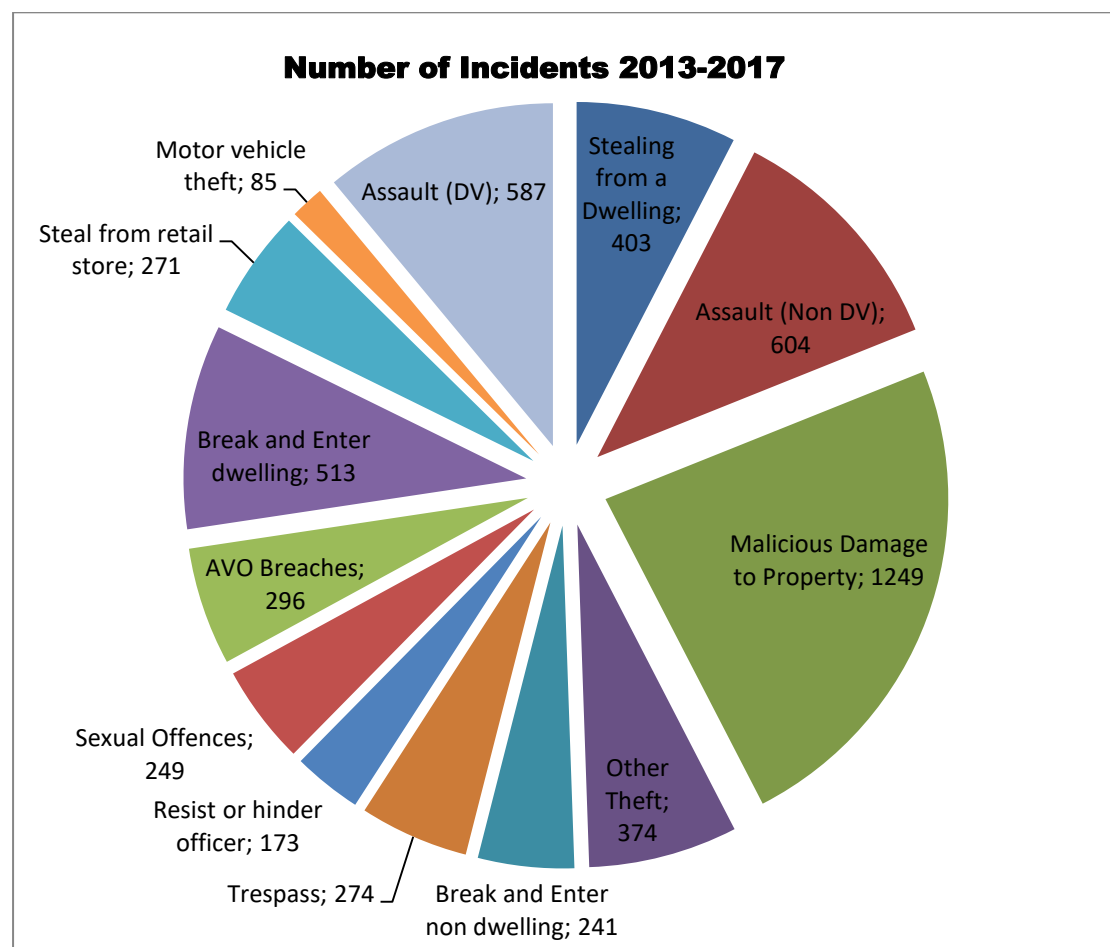
Type of Offence	2013 No. of Incidents / LGA Rank	2014 No. of Incidents / LGA Rank	2015 No. of Incidents / LGA Rank	2016 No. of Incidents / LGA Rank	2017 No. of Incidents/ LGA Rank	60 Month Trend
Stealing from a Dwelling	85 23	63 45	73 31	84 22	98 9	Stable
Assault (Non-DV)	131 15	122 16	112 15	116 15	123 11	Stable
Malicious Damage to Property	224 41	268 18	264 13	228 22	265 11	Stable
Other Theft	76 44	82 27	71 40	64 49	81 13	Stable
Break and Enter non dwelling	57 30	39 50	53 26	33 56	59 14	Stable
Trespass	35 41	50 24	67 15	63 18	59 16	13.9% increase
Resist or hinder officer	51 7	56 2	27 22	13 60	26 18	not calculated
Sexual Offences	36 42	59 10	51 11	51 17	52 19	not calculated
AVO Breaches	70 12	50 29	55 31	57 32	64 22	Stable
Break and Enter dwelling	67 66	90 42	97 31	163 13	96 26	8.5% increase
Steal from retail store	48 29	45 36	60 24	58 29	60 27	Stable
Motor vehicle theft	9 111	12 106	15 94	13 103	36 32	not calculated
Assault (DV)	137 7	150 8	113 20	101 27	86 36	11% Decrease



Malicious Damage to Property is the most frequently occurring criminal offence in the Inverell LGA and ranks within the top 10% of all NSW LGA's. Likewise, violence related offences such as *Assault* (sexual, domestic and non-domestic) contribute to a large proportion of all criminal activity within the Inverell LGA and are poorly ranked in comparison to other LGA's.

Taking this into consideration, the Inverell LGA has limited issues with offences such as *Motor Vehicle Theft* and ranks better in comparison to the majority of LGA's. Graph 2 highlights the frequency of prevalent criminal activity based on this information, whilst Graph 3 breaks down the top five (5) criminal offences committed in the Inverell LGA based upon the *NSW Crime Offenders Ranking*.

Graph 2: Total Recorded Number of Prevalent Offences.





Graph 3: Top Five Prevalent Offences for Inverell LGA.

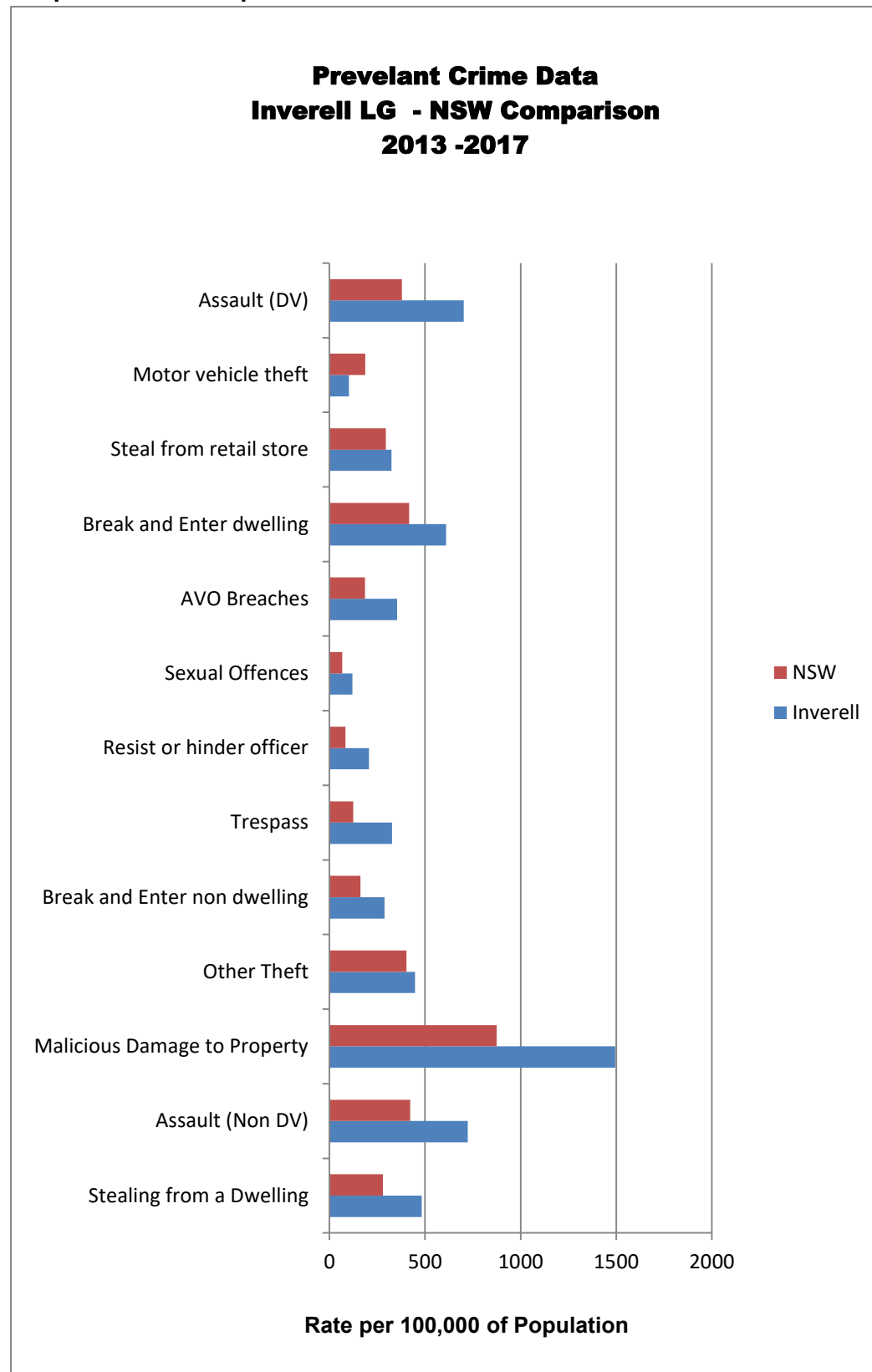


2.2 Prevalent Crime Comparison – Inverell LGA to NSW

Comparing the occurrence of criminal activity in the Inverell LGA against the NSW State average enables for the identification and prioritisation of key offences requiring preventative actions. [Graph 4](#) provides a comparison between the Inverell LGA and NSW in relation to the recorded data of prevalent crimes.



Graph 4: State Comparison





Key Findings over a 60 month period:

- Malicious Damage to Property is 71% **higher** in the Inverell LGA than the State average;
- Domestic Violence is almost 85% **higher** in the Inverell LGA than the state average: yet the trend over the last 5 years has been a decline of 11%
- AVO Breaches are 90% **higher** in the Inverell LGA than the State average;
- Assault (non-DV) is 71% **higher** in the Inverell LGA than the State average;
- Resist or hinder officer is 147% **higher** in the Inverell LGA than the State average;
- Break and Enter (non-dwelling) is 78% **higher** in the Inverell LGA than the State average;
- Trespass is 163% **higher** in the Inverell LGA than the State average;
- Motor vehicle theft is 46% **lower** in the Inverell LGA than the State average.

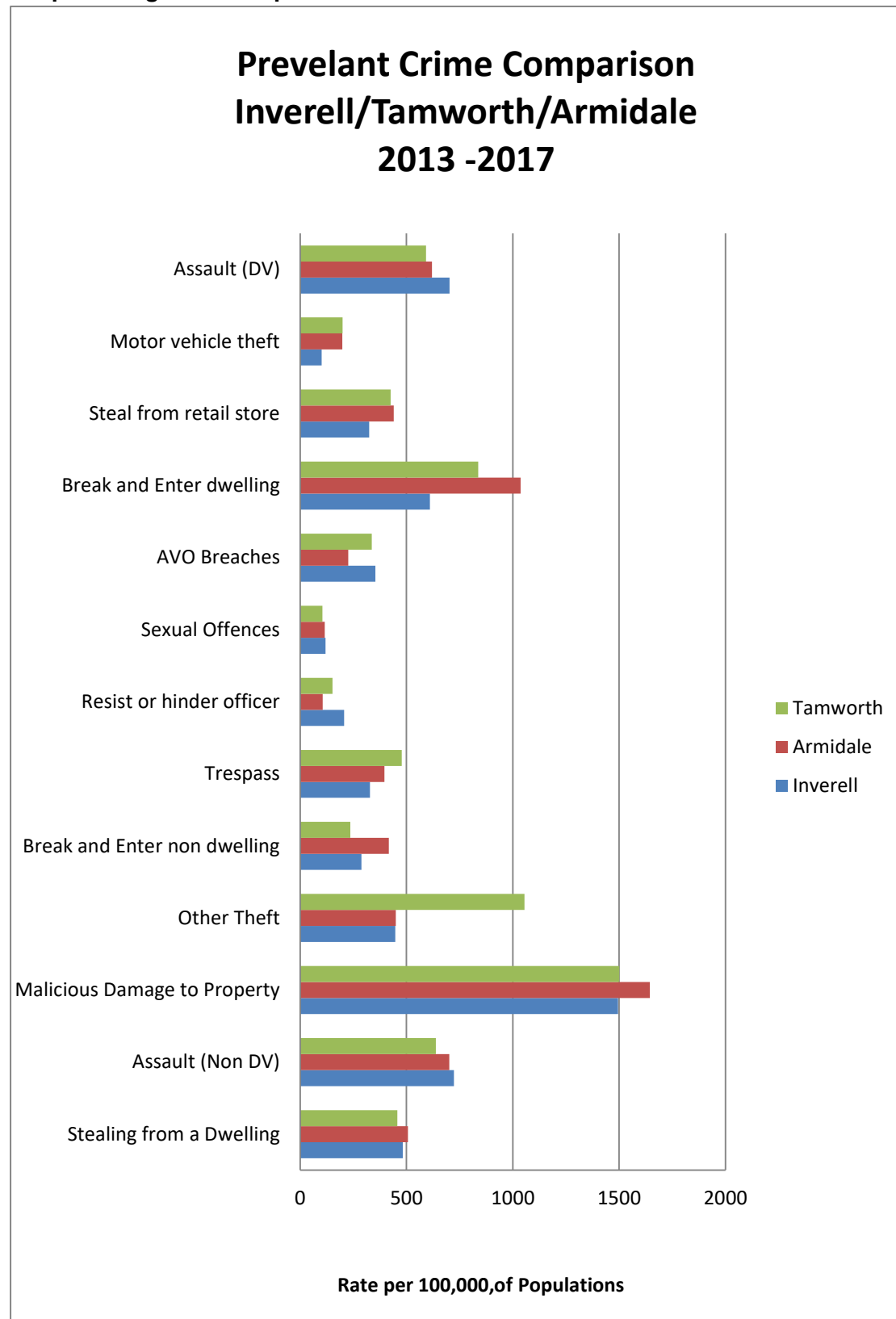
Taking this analysis into consideration it is apparent that offences relating to *Assault*, *AVO Breaches*, *Malicious Damage*, and *Break and Enter* are prevalent crimes that should evoke strategies to reduce their occurrence. Trespassing and resist or hinder officers are often a consequence of these offensives, and as such, these offences are identified as priority.

2.3 Prevalent Crime Comparison – Inverell/Tamworth/Armidale

Analysing and comparing the recorded crime data of other leading regional centres within the New England/North West allows for the assessment of crime prevalence in the Inverell LGA on a regional basis. Graph 5 depicts the occurrence of prevalent criminal offences in the Armidale and Tamworth Regional LGA's. By doing so, a level of comparison is provided for the prevalence and status of criminal activity within the region. Although generally higher than the state average, if the recorded crime data of the Inverell LGA compares better than to that of its regional counter-parts, it may be portrayed as a leading regional community that is marginally safer than others in the area.



Graph 5: Regional Comparison





Key Findings:

- The majority of identified prevalent criminal offences occur **less frequently** in the Inverell LGA than other leading centres in the region;
- The Inverell LGA has the **highest** occurrence of Assault related crime (*Domestic Violence, Non Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault*) compared to Armidale Regional and Tamworth LGA's;

These findings indicate that the Inverell LGA has a statistically lower occurrence of the majority of prevalent criminal activities than its regional counter-parts. This presents the Inverell LGA as a safer regional center in the New England/North West. Despite this, the majority of the Inverell LGA's criminal activities are dominated by offences relating to *Assault* and *Malicious Damage*, supportive of the data presented in Graph 4. As such, attention should be drawn to these offences in order to develop and implement appropriate strategies aimed at reducing their occurrence.

2.4 Offender Profile

In 2017 the recorded NSW crime statistics for the Inverell LGA identified that male offenders perpetrated 74% of the recorded incidents of prevalent crime.

Of the total male recorded incidents:

- 41% were male offenders aged 20-29 years;
- 21% were male offenders aged 30-39 years;
- 20% were male offenders aged 10-17 years;
- 10% were male offenders aged 40+ years;
- 8% were male offenders aged 18-19 years.

Female offenders contributed to 26% of recorded crime in 2017.

Of the total recorded incidents:

- 44% were female offenders aged 10-17 years;
- 20% were female offenders aged 20-29 years;
- 16% were female offenders aged 40+ years;
- 15% were female offenders aged 30-39 years;
- 5% were female offenders aged 18-19 years.



As demonstrated by Graphs 1-5, offences relating to *Assault*, *Malicious Damage*, and *Break and Enter* are the most prevalent in the Inverell LGA. The profiles of the top five (5) perpetrator categories committing these offences are:

Assault (DV)

- 34% of offenders were males aged 20-29 years;
- 22% of offenders were males aged 40+ years;
- 17% of offenders were males aged 30-39 years;
- 7% of offenders were males aged 18-19 years
- 7% of offenders were females aged 40+ years.

Assault (non-DV)

- 29% of offenders were males aged 20-29 years;
- 20% of offenders were males aged 30-39 years;
- 8% of offenders were males aged 10-17 years
- 8% of offenders were females aged 20-29 years;
- 6% of offenders were males aged 18-19 and 40+ years.

Break and Enter dwelling

- 36% of offenders were males aged 10-17 years;
- 32% of offenders were males aged 20-29 years;
- 16% of offenders were females aged 10-17 years;
- 8% of offenders were males aged 30-39 years;
- 8% of offenders were females aged 40+ years.

Break and Enter non-dwelling

- 56% of offenders were males aged 20-29 years;
- 33% of offenders were males aged 10-17 years;
- 11% of offenders were females aged 10-17 years.

Malicious Damage to Property

- 25% of offenders were males aged 30-39 years;
- 28% of offenders were males aged 20-29 years;
- 10% of offenders were males aged 18-19 years;
- 10% of offenders were males aged 10-17 years;
- 10% of offenders were females aged 10-17 years.



The incarceration rate of Indigenous people is largely disproportionate to that of their population in society, a statistic relevant across the country. As the Inverell LGA has a high Indigenous population (6.5% of total population), it is necessary to review statistics relating to Indigenous status in order to develop appropriate and culturally aware strategies with the Indigenous community. The recorded crime statistics for Indigenous status for 2017 were:

Graph 6: Indigenous status of alleged offenders proceeded against by NSW Police for incidents of selected offences: NSW Recorded Crime Statistics 2017 – Inverell Local Government Area.

Alleged offender's Indigenous status	Assault (DV)	Assault (non-DV)	Break & Enter non-dwelling	Malicious Damage to Property
Indigenous	37%	35%	67%	55%
Non-Indigenous	59%	51%	22%	38%
Unknown	4%	14%	11%	7%

Taking into consideration the percentage of the Indigenous population in the Inverell LGA, the above data suggests that people of Indigenous status are disproportionately represented as alleged offenders of most prevalent offences committed in the LGA. As such, initiatives aimed at reducing the occurrence of these offences should be developed with a culturally sensitive approach.

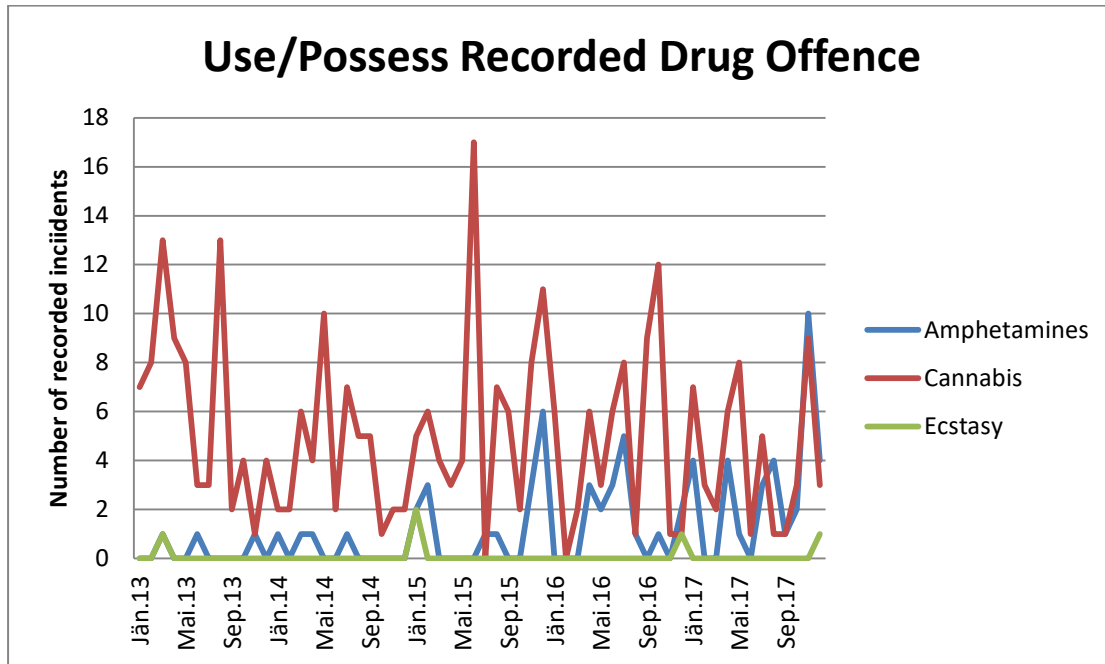
3 Illicit Drug Crime

The manufacture, distribution and use of illicit substances are widely associated as an influential factor in a range of criminal offences. Whilst not all crime is committed as a result of, or in aid of substance abuse, identifying the impact of its prevalence on criminal activity is fundamental in understanding the motive of perpetrators. With an intense media focus on the rise and devastation caused by the production and abuse of amphetamines, in particular methamphetamines, it is increasingly important to review statistics based on the prevalence of drug related offences in the Inverell LGA. Graph 7 demonstrates the recorded offences of possession and use of the three (3) most illicit drugs in the Inverell LGA.



Graph 7: Use/Possess Recorded Drug Offences –

Inverell LGA January 2013-December 2017



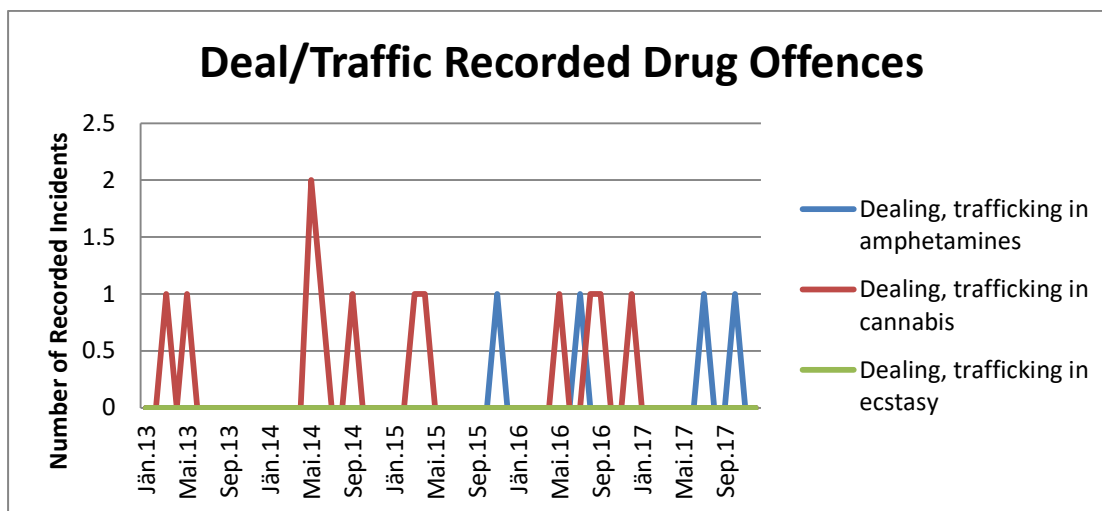
Key Findings:

- Cannabis is the most recorded illicit drug for use and possession in the Inverell LGA;
- Recorded amphetamine offences have increased in the last two (2) years and is tracking similar to Cannabis incidents;
- Recorded offences relating to ecstasy in the Inverell LGA are minimal.

Whilst it is important to identify the prevalence of illicit substance use in the LGA, it is of equal importance to identify and monitor the distribution, trafficking and dealing of these substances within the community. [Graph 8](#) portrays this data in relation to the three most recorded drugs in the Inverell LGA.



**Graph 8: Deal/Traffic Recorded Drug Offence - Inverell LGA January 2013-
December 2017**



Key Findings:

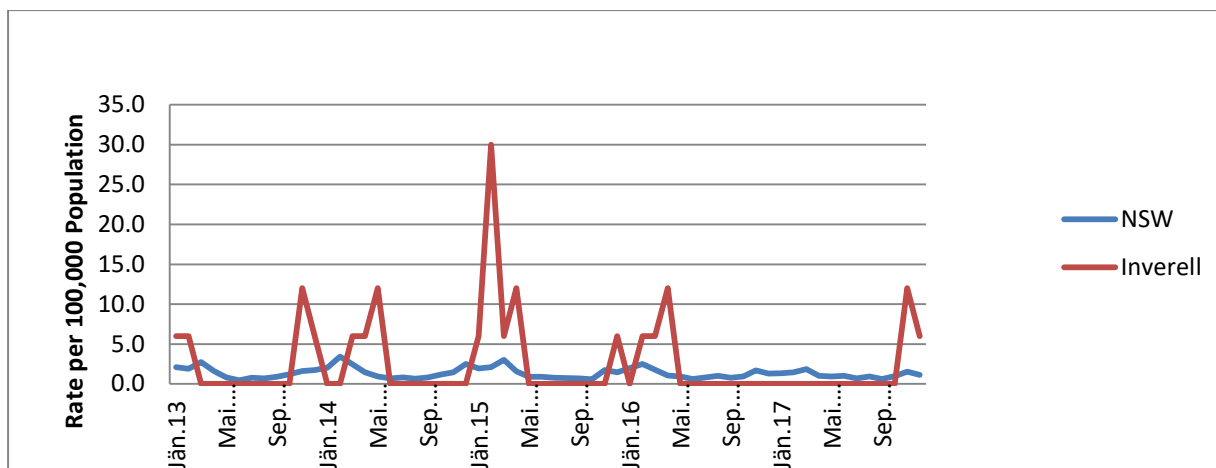
- Recorded offence data suggests that ecstasy is not dealt or trafficked throughout the Inverell LGA;
- Cannabis is the most trafficked illicit drug in the Inverell LGA over the 60 month period.
- Whilst there are instances of amphetamine dealing/trafficking in the Inverell LGA, the regularity of this is starting to trend similar to cannabis trafficking;
- The dealing/trafficking of all substances does not correlate to the recorded use/possession offences, indicating that illicit drugs may be sourced outside the LGA or that traffickers are not being convicted.

Both [Graph 7](#) and [Graph 8](#) indicate that cannabis has consistently been the most prevalent drug for use and trafficking in the Inverell LGA over the last 5 years. As such, it is essential to identify trends associated with the production of this substance within the community, in order to develop strategies aimed at reducing its accessibility. Additionally it is important to compare these statistics against the state average to determine if the prevalence of cannabis cultivation in the community is consistent across the state. [Graph 9](#) presents data reflecting recorded offences relating to the cultivation of cannabis in the Inverell LGA.



Graph 9: Cannabis Cultivation – Inverell LGA/ NSW

Comparison January 2013 – December 2017.



Key Findings:

- Cannabis cultivation in the Inverell LGA is generally seasonal, indicating a lack of sophistication amongst cannabis growing offenders.
- Cannabis cultivation in the Inverell LGA is substantially higher than the state average.

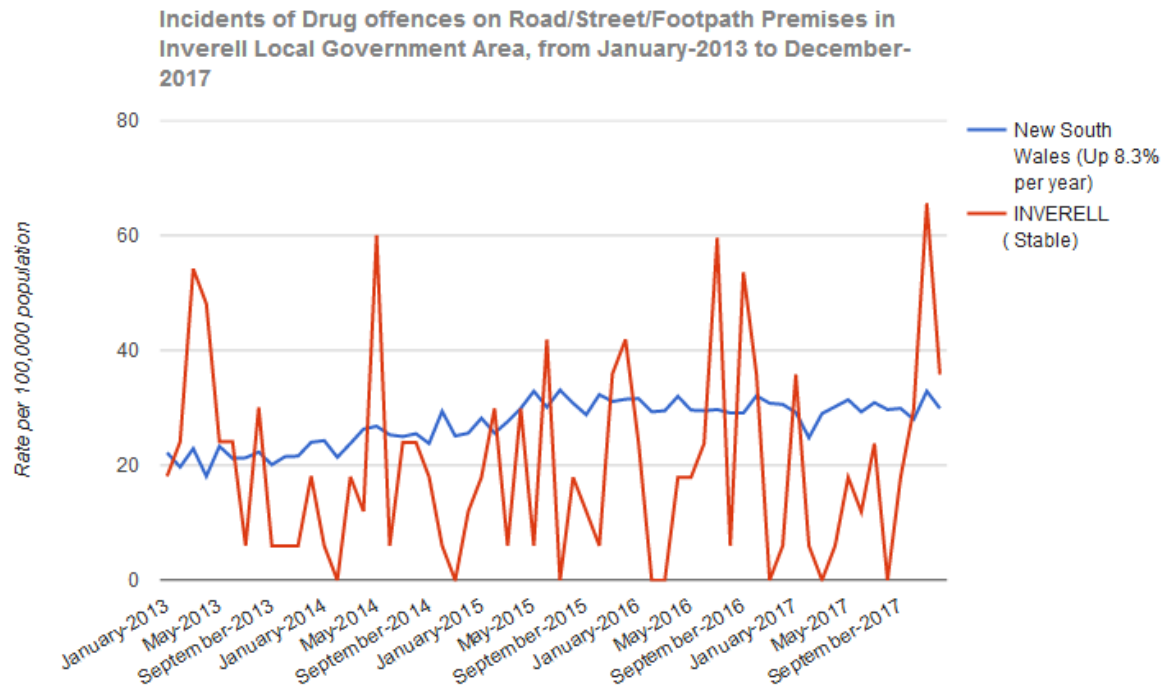
Identifying the premises on which drug offences are committed is valuable in the development of strategies directed at reducing the prevalence of drugs in the Inverell LGA. Graph 10 provides a regional comparison of drug crime by premises, whilst Graph 11 identifies trends in the top two (2) premises for drug offences in the Inverell LGA.

Graph 10: Drug Offences By premises – Inverell/Armidale/Tamworth – 2016 / 2017

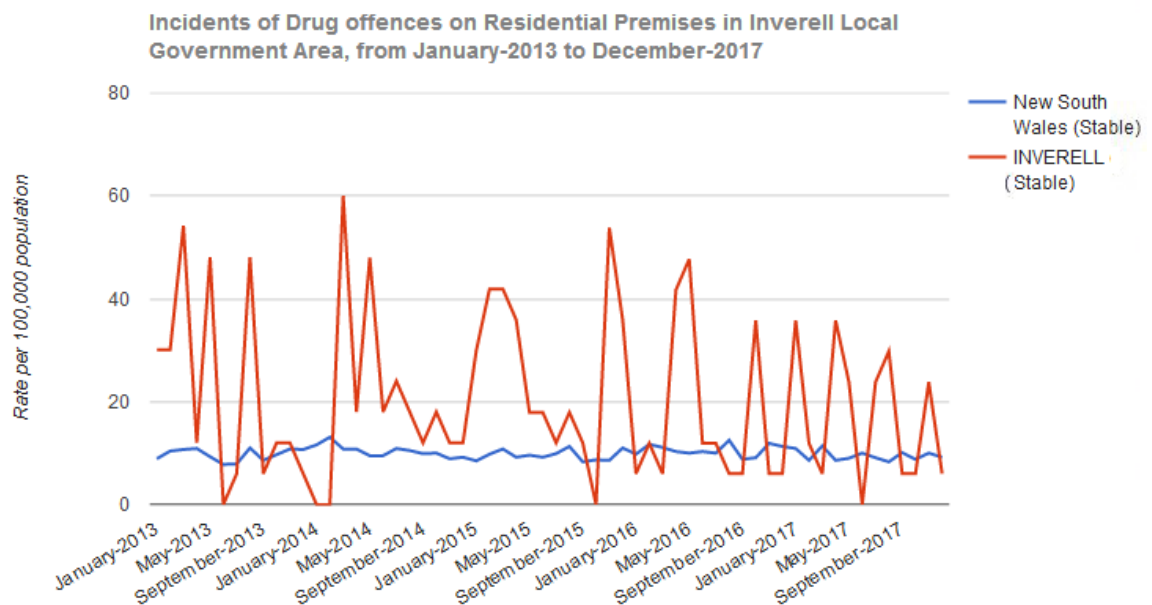
Premises	Inverell	Armidale	Tamworth
Car park	1.8% / 3.1%	2.3% / 3%	0.8% / 0.6%
Law Enforcement	3.6% / 3.1%	3.3% / 3.1%	3.9% / 1.9%
Licenced Premises	2.7% / 1 %	1% / 8.9%	1.2% / 4.5%
Park/Bushland/Garden	8.2% / 6.2 %	3% / 5.7%	2.3% / 1.3%
Residential	36.4% / 36.5%	18.4% / 15.1%	22% / 32.9%
Road/Street/Footpath	40.9% / 43.8%	68.4% / 47.1%	59.8% / 49.7%
School	0.9% / 1 %	0.7% / 0.6%	2.3% / 1 %



Graph 11: Top 2 Drug Offence Premises Trend Map – Inverell LGA



Sources: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research



Sources: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research



Key Findings:

- The two most prevalent premises for drug offences in the Inverell LGA are residential and road/street/footpath;
- Peaks in recorded drug offences in one of the top two premises generally results in troughs for recorded drug offences;
- In comparison to the other major regional hubs, the Inverell LGA has a higher amount of recorded drug offences committed on residential premises and a lower number of recorded drug offences committed on the road/street/footpath.

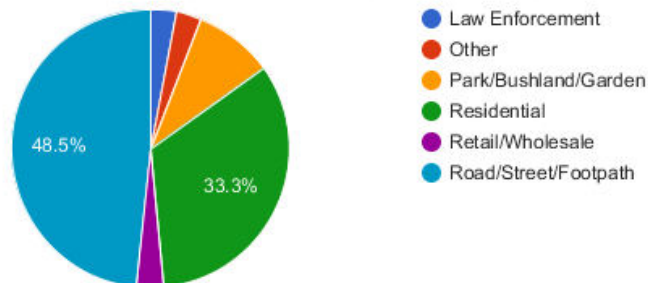
Recorded drug offence data suggests that cannabis is the most prevalent drug in the Inverell LGA. Despite this, much community focus and media attention is directed at the perceived increase in the trafficking, use and effects of methamphetamines. However, the recorded crime data indicates, that whilst methamphetamine offences have slightly increased, the drug is not the most prevalent in the community. Data from the National Drug Research Institute indicates that the percentage of Australia's population using methamphetamines has continuously decreased over the last 15 years to just under 2% of the population (down from 4%). The Institute further asserts that community focus on the drug stems from the purity in which methamphetamine may now be abused, in particular as a crystalised substance, which may result in more users experiencing psychosis. In order to gauge an accurate representation of methamphetamine, and all illicit substances usage in the Inverell LGA, it is suggested that Council seek external methods of monitoring drug usage in the community.

Understanding the cause of community concern in relation to methamphetamines may be aided by comparing the exposure of the drug to the residents of the community, by recorded premises data, with other illicit substances. Graph 11 and Graph 12 provide a comparison of both methamphetamine and cannabis usage, by premises, in the Inverell LGA.

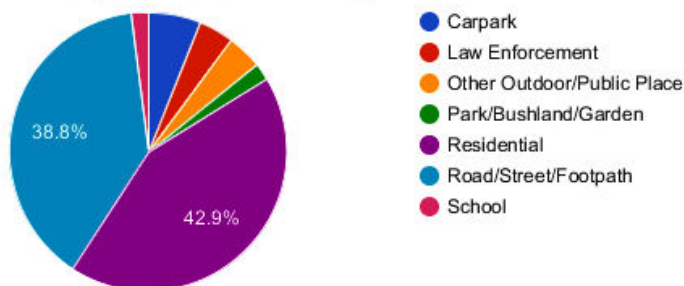


Graph 12: Recorded Use/Possess Offences Inverell LGA by Premises 2017

Incidents of Drug offences (Use/possess amphetamines) in Inverell Local Government Area, Jan 2017 to Dec 2017 by Premises



Incidents of Drug offences (Use/possess cannabis) in Inverell Local Government Area, Jan 2017 to Dec 2017 by Premises



Sources: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

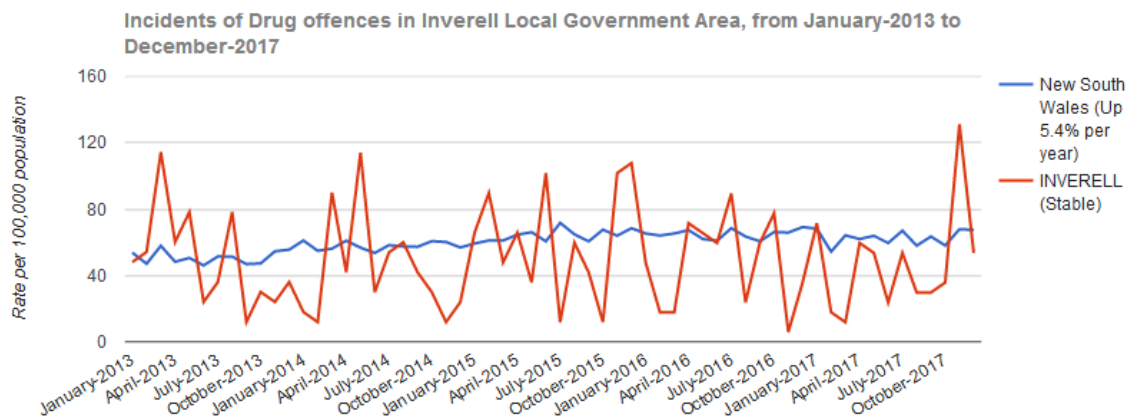
Key Findings:

- Recorded methamphetamine offences are committed on a greater range of premises than cannabis. As such, more residents of the community may be exposed to the drug and thus create a perception that the substance has an increased prevalence in the community.
- Both cannabis and methamphetamine users are caught offending on the road/street/footpath more than any other premises.

Taking all of the aforementioned information into consideration, it is essential to analyse the position of the Inverell LGA on recorded drug offence numbers in comparison to the rest of NSW. Graph 13 portrays a five (5) year comparison of recorded drug offences between the Inverell LGA and the NSW state average.



**Graph 14: Total Recorded Drug Offences –
Inverell LGA/NSW Comparison 2013-2017.**



Sources: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Key Findings:

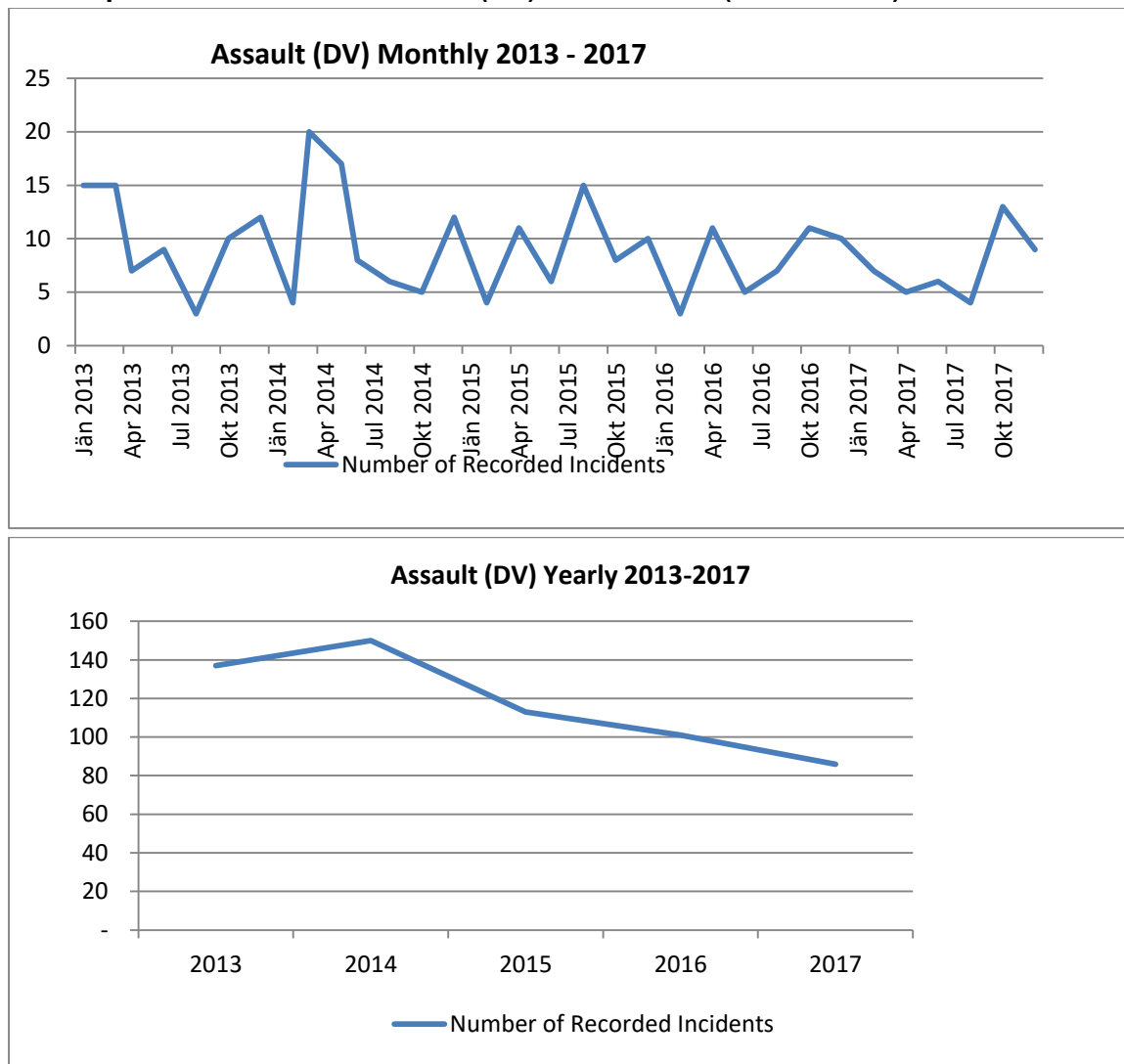
- Recorded drug offences have increased across NSW over the five year period, whilst offences in the Inverell LGA have remained steady;
- Recorded drug offences in the Inverell LGA have consistently peaked above the state average over the five year period;
- The trend in the state average does not correlate or reflect the trend in recorded drug offences in the Inverell LGA.

4 Prevalent Crime Trends

Recognising trends in prevalent crime data is a critical component of the efficient and effective development of offence reduction strategies. Identifying key trends such as peak periods of occurrence will allow crime prevention strategies to be targeted and utilised to the greatest effect. Graphs 14-17 depict a three (3) year trend map of the four (4) most prevalent crimes occurring in the Inverell LGA.



Graph 15: Incidents of Assault (DV) Inverell LGA (2013 – 2017).



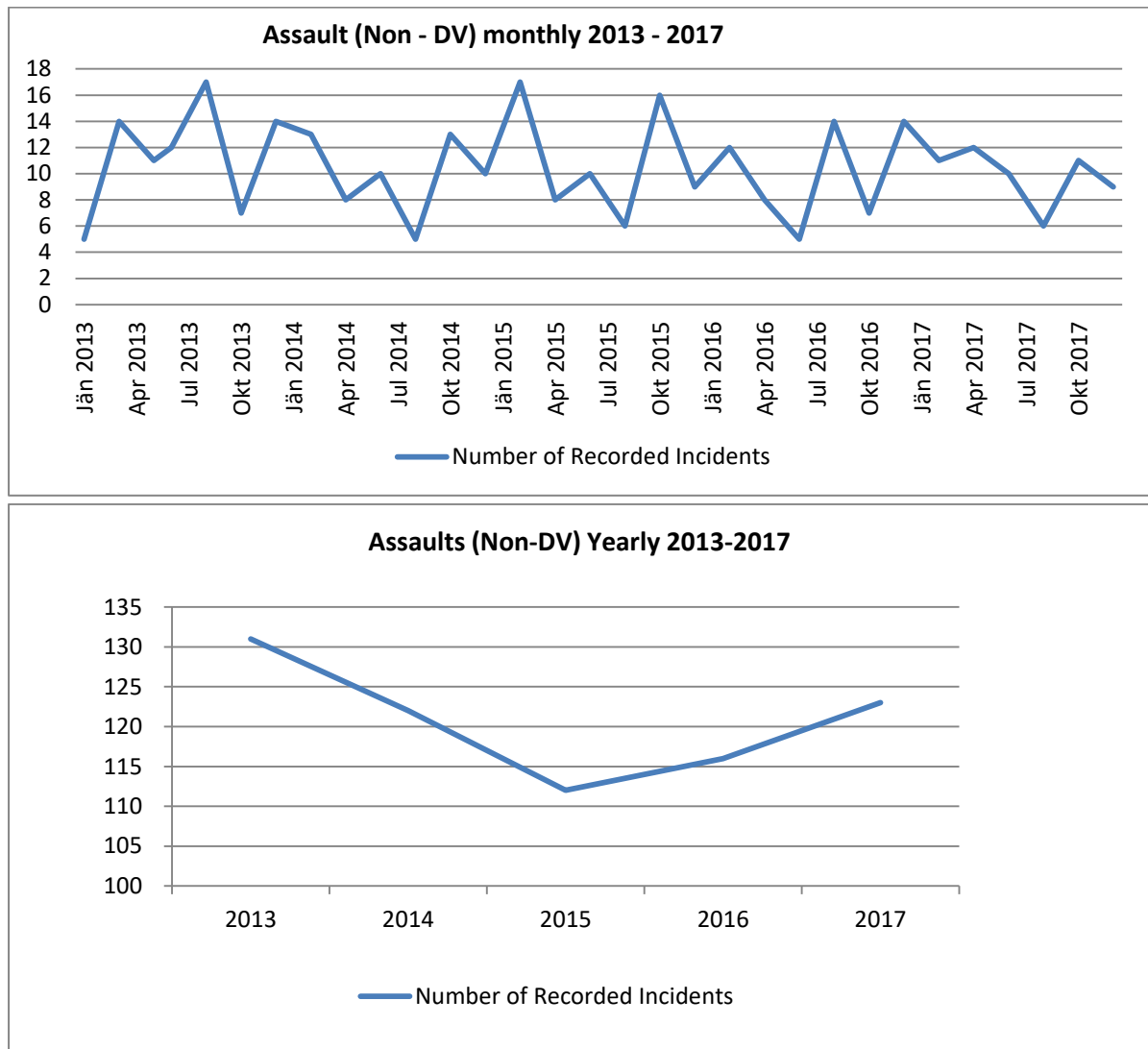
Key Findings:

- Incidents of *Domestic Violence* occur **more frequently** in the summer months (exclusive of 2014) and festive seasons;
- Incidents of *Domestic Violence* have occurred **less frequently** since November 2014 and have shown a **decline** at a rate of 11%.

The prevalence of *Domestic Violence* in the festive season may be a result of increased financial, family, and mental stress associated within this time-period. Although the festive season is not the only time incidents of *Domestic Violence* occur, a consistent rapid fall in incidents during February supports the analysis that the offence is most prevalent during this time of year.



Graph 16: Incidents of Assault (non-DV) Inverell LGA (2013-2017).



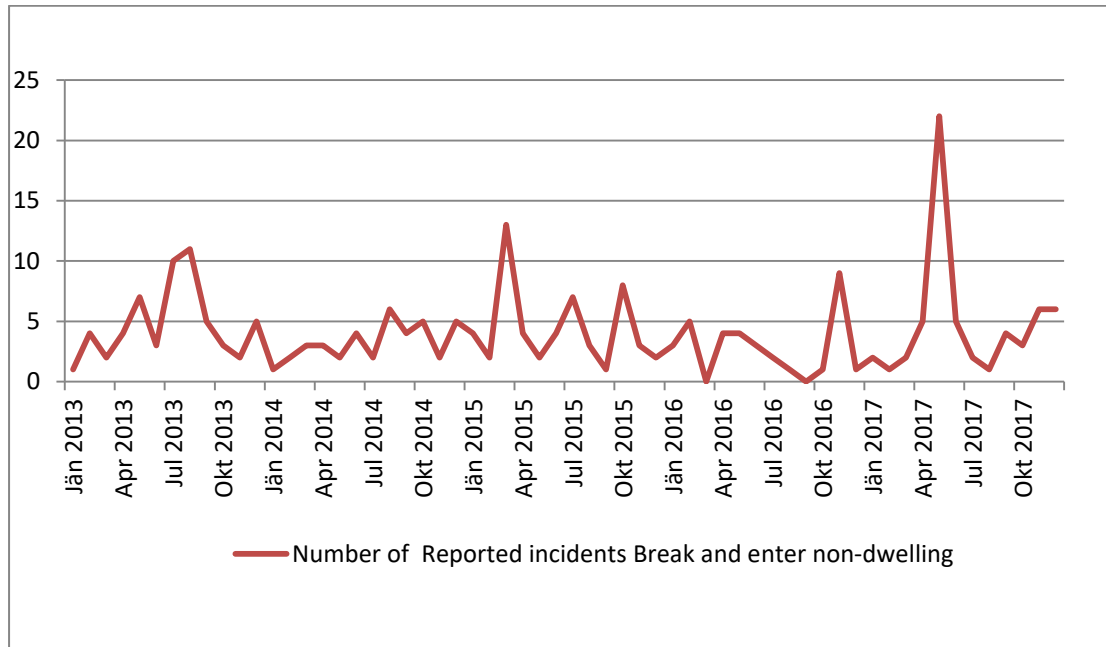
Key Findings:

- Incidents of *Assault* generally **peak** between October and March;
- Incidents of *Assault* on yearly bases shows a decline from 2013 rates that increases from 2015, yet the 60 month trend rates as **stable**.

The frequency of *Assault* incidents between October and March indicates a prevalence of the offence during the warmer months. This may be a result of the increased number of people in public place, increased trade in social establishments and/or the increased consumption of alcohol during festivities.



**Graph 17: Incidents of Break and Enter (non-dwelling)
Inverell LGA 2013 -2017**



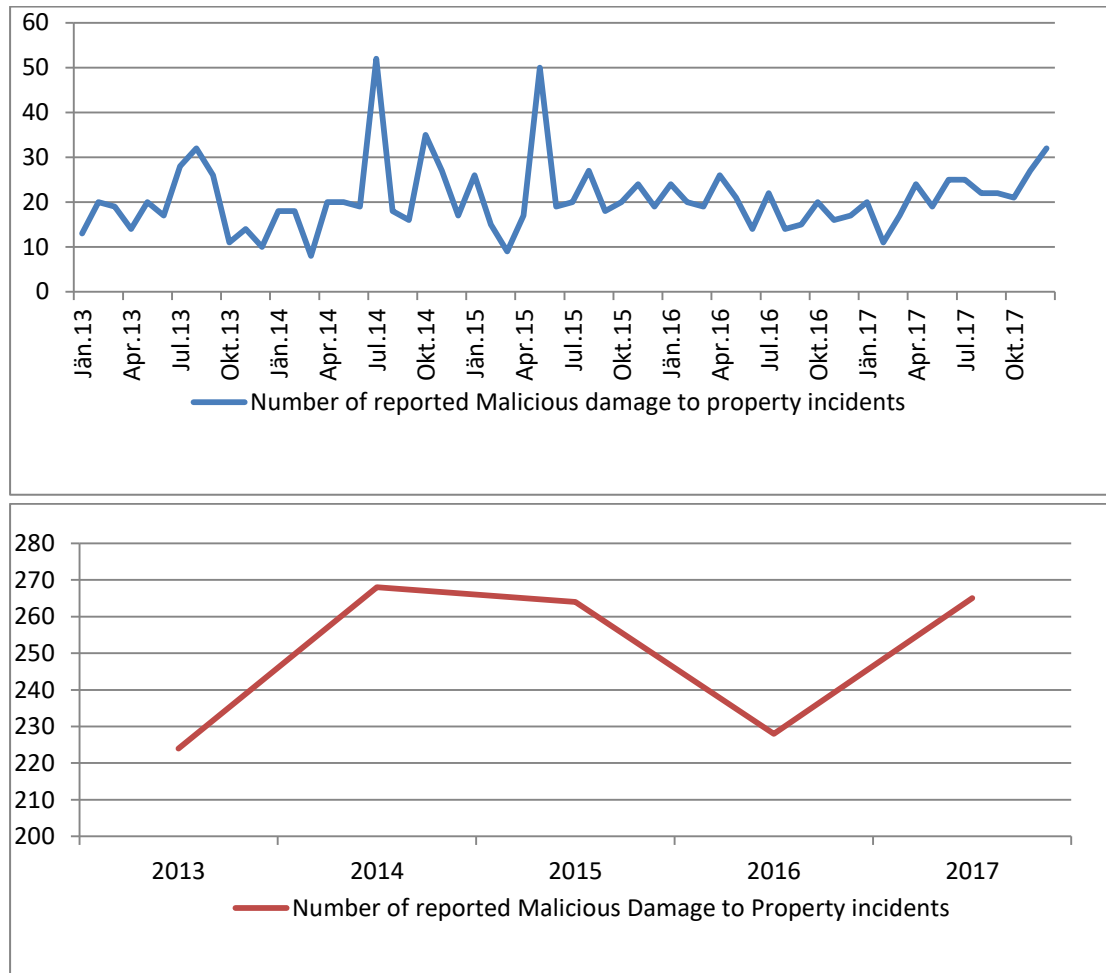
Key Findings:

- Incidents of *Break and Enter (non-dwelling)* occur **most frequently** during holiday periods;
- Incidents of *Break and Enter (non-dwelling)* have remained **stable** over the five (5) year period, with exception on an unusual peak in April 2017.

The prevalence of *Break and Enter (non-dwelling)* incidents in holiday periods directly correlates to the age of the perpetrators committing the offence. As previously identified, school-aged children (10-17 years) accounted for 90% of all *Break and Enter (non-dwelling)* offences in 2015. As such, strategies targeted at reducing the occurrence of this offence should take into consideration the type of offender and the time-periods where this offence is committed most frequently.



Graph 18: Incidents of Malicious Damage to Property Inverell LGA (2013-2017).



Key Findings:

- Incidents of *Malicious Damage to Property* occur **most frequently** during cooler months;
- Incidents of *Malicious Damage to Property* have been **stable** over the 60 Month period.

The peak of *Malicious Damage to Property* offences during the cooler months may be a result of increased opportunity for criminal activity with reduced civilian presence in public areas, longer hours of darkness, and the necessity for warmer clothing providing concealment. Additionally, less people in public areas may result in a reduction of police patrols, decreasing the chances of a perpetrator being apprehended, and as such, increasing the likelihood of the offence being committed.



5 Existing and Previous Crime Prevention Strategies

The Inverell Shire Council has implemented and endorsed a range of existing and previous strategies fully and/or partially targeted at reducing crime in the LGA. Strategies have focused on one or numerous criminal offences with a number of methods utilised. These include:

- Targeting/educating potential perpetrators;
- Educating convicted offenders to decrease recidivism rates;
- Reducing/eliminating the perceived necessity to commit an offence;
- Drug and alcohol awareness campaigns;
- Consultative committees for the collaboration of stakeholders in crime;
- Support programs for families and individuals with a low socio-economic status.

Strategies currently implemented and/or endorsed by Council include:

White Ribbon Community;

On the 5 May 2018 Inverell was acknowledged by White Ribbon Australia As the nation's first White Ribbon Community as part of the White Ribbon Community Pilot Project. The 'White Ribbon Community' was developed by The White Ribbon Community Pilot Project Team that achieved its objectives to establish a viable framework for other communities to use, that will contribute in the prevention of violence against women through Community Awareness, educating and empowering young people, training and mobilising men to prevent violence, and promoting community collaboration and capacity building and enabling Cross-sector partnerships

The project team involved local service providers, government agencies, the Inverell Community Violence Prevention Team, White Ribbon Australia and NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

To ensure this great work continues the Inverell Community Violence Prevention team is incorporating the project's objectives within its endeavor to end violence.

Inverell Community Violence Prevention Team

The Inverell Community Violence Prevention team consists of members from our community, government and non government agencies that are committed to the prevention of all forms of violence within our community through increased awareness and education.



AVO Compliance and Education Program;

The AVO Compliance and Education Program (ACE) is a funded initiative by the NSW Department of Justice that is delivered by Rural Outreach and Support Services. The ACE program strives to educate community members about AVO's and the impacts of these court orders through easily accessible information, workshops and individual consultations.

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Community Safety Camera Program;

Utilising a range of fixed and mobile safety cameras, predominately located in the Inverell CBD, as a preventative measure against violence, vandalism and anti-social behavior. This initiative has proved to be extremely beneficial since its initiation. The Local Area Command (LAC), community service providers and commercial business owners have asserted their beliefs that this program has been of benefit to the community. Inspector Rowan O'Brien of the New England LAC conveys that since the implementation of Stage 1 of the program 'a reduction in crime, recidivism, malicious damage and anti-social behavior has been noticed in the areas where the cameras have been installed'. Taking this into consideration, an expansion of the program should be contemplated to make available a wider scope of surveillance and address blind spots in the community.

Linking Together Center (LTC) – South Inverell;

The LTC was established in 2002 as a partnership between the South Inverell Residents Association, NSW Housing and Inverell Shire Council to empower and educate highly disadvantaged and vulnerable people within the community, assisting them to make better life choices relating to their personal and community well-being. This service has proven successful in reducing young peoples contact with the justice system both locally and in other communities where similar services are run e.g. Armidale.

Community Safety Precinct Committee;

This is a collaborative committee, involving Council and members of the New England LAC, who work to identify fundamental issues jeopardising community safety as a means to develop preventative strategies.



Inverell and District Liquor Consultative Committee;

This is a committee that is involved in and that oversees the collaboration of local social establishments. The committee endeavors to reduce anti-social behavior and incidences of malicious damage through the implementation of governing documentation such as the 'Local Liquor Accord' that outlines operational agreements developed by relevant stakeholders.

Aboriginal Consultative Committee;

This is a consultative committee for strengthening the relationship between the Aboriginal community and Australians of other descents. The committee focuses on operational issues, in a culturally aware manner, in order to increase understanding and collaboration. Issues such as community safety are a priority of the committee.

In addition to this, Council has previously engaged in strategies aimed at reducing criminal activity within the LGA. This includes;

kNOw Drugs Campaign;

A preventative campaign targeted at educating and empowering youth to have the means to say 'NO' to substance abuse. Preventing contact with and the abuse of substance may reduce criminal activity by removing a desire to commit an offence and/or minimalising the development of addiction within the community.



6 Crime Prevention Plan

The basis of a crime prevention plan is the identification of fundamental issues relating to the prevalence of crime in any given area. Understanding the offences, perpetrators and motives behind criminal activity provides a sound foundation for its reduction. As the key issues relating to criminal activity in the Inverell LGA have been disclosed, and a situational analysis provided, the prioritisation of tasks may occur. Prioritising the aims and objectives associated with crime prevention will ensure that the needs and safety of the community are at the forefront of all associated Council initiatives.

6.1 Aims and Objectives

Council endeavors to implement and maintain a range of strategies that aim to reduce criminal opportunity and its associated risks to the community. As outlined in the aforementioned, this may be achieved through the prioritisation of aims and objectives. Taking into consideration the analysis of all data and statistical evidence presented, it is recommend that Council develop initiatives targeted at reducing the prevalence of the following prioritised offences:

1. Break and Enter (non-dwelling);

- Prioritised as most relevant for intervention due to the rank of the offence in the Inverell LGA and the predominant perpetrators. This offence may be seen as an 'entry level' offence into criminal activity with minors. Strategies aimed at limiting its occurrence may prevent potential perpetrators from developing into career criminals and committing offences of a more serious nature.

2. Assault (Domestic Violence);

- Due to the rank and prevalence of this crime in the Inverell LGA, initiatives directed at reducing its occurrence are essential. With 77% of offenders being males aged 20 years and over, the implementation of targeted strategies are required.

3. Malicious Damage to Property;

- As the most committed prevalent offence in the Inverell LGA strategies should be implemented to reduce its occurrence rate and as such the destruction or degradation of shared community assets.



4. Assault (non-DV);

- As an offence that has been committed consistently over the analysed period of time and partaken in by a broad range of demographics, it is imperative for strategies to be implemented to reduce the prevalence of *Assault*. As a display of anti-social behavior, this offence poses a great risk to the safety and wellbeing of the community.

5. Sexual Assault;

- With the highest level of recorded instances of the three major regional hubs of the New England/Northwest (Inverell, Tamworth, Armidale), the prevalence of *Sexual Assault* must be reduced in the Inverell LGA. Strategies should aim to reduce its prevalence through educational activities and by reducing the opportunistic nature associated with the offence (safety by design).

6. Steal from a Retail Store;

- The Inverell LGA ranks poorly in comparison to other LGA's in NSW for this offence. As it is ranked within the top 25% worst offenders, it is an issue that should be addressed to increase the appeal of the Inverell LGA as a safe and livable regional hub.

7. Break and Enter (dwelling);

- This offence poses a serious risk to the local community. Incidents involving the unlawful invasion of residential properties see the Inverell LGA rank within the top 25% worst offenders through recorded incident rates. Strategies should be developed to decrease the frequency of the offence being committed, increase the safety and wellbeing of all residents, and increase the Inverell LGA state rank.

8. Steal from a Dwelling;

- As an offence that is equally prominent among major hubs in the region, Inverell LGA's ability to reduce the prevalence of this crime, in its jurisdiction, would portray the LGA as a leader in crime prevention. A poor state ranking further indicates the frequency at which this crime is committed, thus strategies aimed at reducing its prevalence would be of great benefit to all residents of the community.



Other notable offences that should be monitored for changes in trends and event frequency include:

- *Motor Vehicle Theft.*
- *Steal from Motor Vehicle;*
- *Robbery without a Weapon;*
- *Steal from a Person;*

7 Community Strategic Plan

The Inverell Shire Council's 'Community Strategic Plan 2009-2029' encompasses a broad range of planned 'Destinations' and their accompanying 'Strategies' directed at guiding the Inverell LGA to an optimal position of efficiency and desirability. The plan takes into consideration the respective challenges of achieving its goals and identifies areas that may be utilised and capitalised upon in order to overcome them. As such, a number of strategies within the plan have been identified as purposeful for crime prevention and reduction in the Inverell LGA. The strategic plan presents five (5) destinations, two (2) of which hold great relevance to achieving the aforementioned. Recognising these destinations and their strategies is an essential component of crime prevention as it will ensure that any hypothetically developed crime reduction strategies appropriately reflect the needs and desires of the community before fruition. A break down of the relevant destinations and strategies is presented in Appendix 1.



8 Action Items

Taking into consideration the prioritisation of prevalent crimes in the Inverell LGA, their associated factors and Councils commitment to adhering to the contents of its strategic plan, it is appropriate to develop a range of suitable action items in collaboration with key stakeholders. The actions items shall be aimed at reducing the prevalence of prioritised offences within the Inverell LGA and directly address one, or multiple, strategies as outlined by Councils strategic plan. All action items are based on the successes of researched strategies that have been implemented in the community or areas facing similar circumstances. The following presents these items in a manner reflective of section 6.1 of this document.

Offences	Action Items	Justification	Council Strategy	Evaluating Success
<i>Break and Enter (non-dwelling)</i>	1. Increased CCTV in CBD. 2. Increased policing of non-residential properties during the holiday season.	Address CCTV blind spots. Provide a wider scope of surveillance. Deter against crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.03 • E.01.01.01 	Increased conviction of offenders. Decrease in the number of recorded offences. Positive Police feedback Improved state ranking.
<i>Assault (DV)</i>	1. Be an active participant in the White Ribbon Community and the Inverell community Violence Prevention Team. 2. Facilitate anti-family violence education programs.	Implement a range of community collaborated initiatives that have the greatest chance of reducing DV in the LGA. Establish perpetrator support services. Educate the community on the impacts of DV and appropriate reporting methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.01.01 • C.03 • C.03.01 • C.13 • C.13.01 • C.16 • C.16.01 • E.01.01.01 	Increase in reporting of Domestic Violence. Decrease in the occurrence of Domestic Violence.



Offences	Action Items	Justification	Council Strategy	Evaluating Success
Malicious Damage to Property	1. Increased CCTV in CBD. 2. Increase lighting in dark areas of town. 3. Increased policing during peak periods.* 4. Alternative methods of transport from the CBD.	Address CCTV blind spots. Provide a wider scope of surveillance. Reduce opportunity for offenders to be unseen.* Deter against crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.03 • C.03.01 • E.01.01.01 	Increased conviction of offenders. Decrease in the number of recorded offences. Increased pedestrian activity using footpaths and cycle paths.
Assault (non-DV)	1. Increased CCTV in CBD. 2. Facilitate anti alcohol fueled violence campaigns. 3. Increased policing during peak periods.*	Address CCTV blind spots. Provide a wider scope of surveillance. Deter against crime. Educate the community on the dangers of alcohol fueled violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.03 • C.03.01 • E.01.01.01 	Increased conviction of offenders. Decrease in the number of recorded offences. Positive Police feedback.
Sexual Assault	1. Increased CCTV in CBD and parks. 2. Actively participate in the White Ribbon Community 3. Facilitate social/family education programs.	Address CCTV blind spots. Provide a wider scope of surveillance. Provide appropriate means to combat sexual assault through education and services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.01.01 • C.03 • C.03.01 • C.13 • C.13.01 • C.16 • C.16.01 • E.01.01.01 	Increased conviction of offenders. Decrease in the number of recorded offences. Positive Police feedback.



INVERELL

SHIRE COUNCIL CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

Offences	Action Items	Justification	Council Strategy	Evaluating Success
<i>Steal from a Retail Store</i>	1. Facilitate education programs relating to increasing the safety of commercial property.	Provide retail businesses with contemporary knowledge in reducing the risk of the offence occurring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.03 • C.07 • C.07.03 • C.11 • C.13 • C.13.01 • C.16 	Decrease in the number of recorded offences.
	2. Ensure the availability of services to facilitate the needs of children at risk of offending.	Facilitate alternate activities to prevent children and adolescents committing crime out of boredom.		Positive Police feedback. Increased use of child and adolescent support services.
<i>Break and Enter (dwelling)</i>	1. Facilitate education programs relating to increasing the safety of residential property.	Ensure residents have access to knowledge that will assist them to improve the safety of their property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.03 • C.05 • C.11 • E.01.01.01 	Decrease in the number of recorded offences.
	2. Increased lighting in dark areas of town.	Reduce the opportunity for perpetrators to offend by increasing visibility.*		Positive Police feedback.
	3. Promote a Neighborhood Watch program.	Facilitate community collaboration to deter potential offenders and increase the likelihood of perpetrators being caught.		Increased formation of Neighborhood Watch programs. Increased pedestrian activity using footpaths and cycle paths.



Offences	Action Items	Justification	Council Strategy	Evaluating Success
<i>Steal from Dwelling</i>	<p>1. Facilitate education programs relating to increasing the safety of residential property.</p> <p>2. Increased lighting in dark areas of town.</p> <p>3. Promote a Neighborhood Watch program.</p> <p>4. Ensure the availability of services to facilitate the needs of children at risk of offending.</p>	<p>Ensure residents have access to knowledge that will assist them to improve the safety of their property.</p> <p>Reduce the opportunity for perpetrators to offend by increasing visibility.*</p> <p>Facilitate community collaboration to deter potential offenders and increase the likelihood of perpetrators being caught.</p> <p>Facilitate alternate activities to prevent children and adolescents committing crime out of boredom.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.03 • C.05 • C.07 • C.07.03 • C.11 • C.13 • C.16 • E.01.01.01 	<p>Decrease in the number of recorded offences.</p> <p>Positive Police feedback.</p> <p>Increased formation of Neighborhood Watch programs.</p> <p>Increased pedestrian activity using footpaths and cycle paths.</p> <p>Increased use of child and adolescent support services.</p>

*The use of increased lighting as a crime prevention strategy has proven successful in a number of locations by reducing the perpetrators opportunity to commit an offence in an anonymous manner.

*Increased policing can be an increased 'seen' presence such as patrolling and licensed premises walkthroughs and/or increased CCTV monitoring.



9 Appendix 1

Strategy	Summary	Stakeholders	Responsibility
Destination II	A community that is healthy, educated and sustained.		
C.01.01	Advocate on behalf of the community for the provision of services which meet community needs and expectations.	Council. Federal Government. Private Service Providers. State Government.	GM
C.03	Promote an ordered and safe community	Council. Federal Government. State Government.	GM
C.03.01	Compliance and regulation programs have been developed and implemented to provide a safe environment for citizens and visitors	Council. Federal Government. State Government.	DCES
C.03.02	Appropriate management plans and facilities are developed and implemented in partnership with emergency services	Council. NSW Ambulance Service. NSW Fire Brigade. NSW Police Service. NSW Rural Fire Service. NSW SES. NSW VRA.	DCES
C.05	Create clean and attractive streets and public places	Community. Council. Related Community Groups.	DCES
C.07	Provide local opportunities for recreation, cultural, and social activities	Council. Heritage Council. Indigenous Cultural Groups. Inverell Art Gallery. Related Community Groups.	DCS



INVERELL

SHIRE COUNCIL CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

Strategy	Summary	Stakeholders	Responsibility
Destination II Cont.			
C.07.03	The youth of Inverell are supported by programs and initiatives that increase opportunities for young people to work, live and train in the Inverell Shire	Council. Federal Government. State Government. Schools. Related Local Community. Groups.	DCS
C.11	Develop a range of educational skills and development opportunities to meet the requirements of the community	Council. Employment Agencies. Government Agencies. Chamber of Commerce. Training Providers. Universities.	DCS
C.11.01	The Shires culture of lifelong learning is nurtured and promoted with increased access to learning opportunities that contribute to an improved quality of life	Council. Employment Agencies. Government Agencies. Chamber of Commerce. Training Providers. Universities.	DCS
C.13	Facilitate activities that improve the quality of life for all people who are requiring support	Council. Government Agencies Government. Representatives. Related Community Groups.	DCS
C.13.01	Council encourages collaboration between community service providers in the provision of sustainable community services	Council. Government Agencies Government. Representatives. Related Community Groups.	DCS

Strategy	Summary	Stakeholders	Responsibility
Destination II			



Cont.			
C.14	Facilitate the provision of opportunities for residents to gain employment	Council. Employment Agencies. Government Agencies. Industrial and Commercial. Agents. Training Organisations.	DCS
C.14.01	Council is actively seeking collaboration with and between educational departments, employment agencies, and public and private organisations for economic and employment growth	Council. Employment Agencies. Government Agencies. Government. Representatives. Industrial and Commercial Agents. Training Organisations. Inverell Chamber of Commerce.	DCS
C.16	Families and children valued and supported to enable them to contribute to the economic, cultural and social well being of the Shire	Church Groups. Child Service Providers. Community. Council. Government. Schools.	GM
C.16.01	Services are provided to meet the diverse needs of families and to support the development of children	Church Groups. Child Service Providers. Community. Council. Federal Government. Schools. State Government. Cultural Groups.	GM



INVERELL

SHIRE COUNCIL CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

Strategy	Summary	Stakeholders	Responsibility
<i>Destination III</i>	An environment that is protected and sustained.		
E.01.01.01	To establish measures and processes to protect the built environment and safety of the residents of the shire through both direct control and education	Community Organisations. Council. Department of Planning. Developers. Inverell Chamber of Commerce.	DCES