

Community Safety Action Plan

2022 – 2026



City of
Wagga Wagga



Acknowledgement of Country

Wagga Wagga City Council gulbali-yanhi ngurambang-gu Wiradjuri-gu walumaldhaany-galang. nganha bala mayiny Wiradjuri. yindyamali-yanhi mudyiganggalang-bu balumbambal-bu balugirbam-bu yindyamali-yanhi bagaraygan ngurambang-gawali-i yandu muran.

wigi wagga wagga-dha ngiyanhi gulbali-bu yindyamali-bu guwiinyguliyalagu buyaa-bu giilaang-galam-bu. ngiyanhi gulbali-bu yindyamali-bu guwiinyguliyalagu dhaagun-giyalam-bu bila-galang-giyalam-bu. gulbali-yanhi Wiradjui-mayiny ngurambangguwal-bu bala yarruwala-bu waluwin-bu walabangan-bu dhirrangal-bu.

Wagga Wagga City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradjuri people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends our respect to all First Nations Peoples in Wagga Wagga.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the land and rivers. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Wiradjuri and First Nations communities.

Photographer: Ami Garth
Pure Dreams Photography

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This Draft Plan is subject to change in line with amendments to the draft revised Community Strategic Plan 2040 prior to adoption by Council in June 2022.

Introduction

The Wagga Wagga Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2040 outlines Council's long term commitment to ensuring that –

*All residents feel safe in the community,
at home and in public places.*

The Community Safety Action Plan (CSAP) 2026 follows on from the success of its predecessor The Crime Prevention Plan (CPP) 2021. The Community Safety Action Plan 2026 however, sees a departure from solely focusing on crime prevention with movement toward a broader community safety focus, with the understanding that everyone has a role to play in keeping their community safe. Due to this, it was imperative that the updated plan embodied a strong community voice.

It has been developed after extensive engagement with community members from a diverse range of backgrounds to ensure it is reflective of the many different voices that make up our community. Consultation was also conducted with key community services and stakeholders that play a role in keeping Wagga safe. These include but are not limited to Wagga Wagga Local Police Service, Department of Communities and Justice, Department of Housing, Department of Community Corrections, NSW Health, Wagga Wagga Cooperative Legal Service Delivery Network, Wagga Women's Health and representatives from Wagga Wagga Neighbourhood Watch.

Three main priority areas emerged and are the focus for the Community Safety Action Plan 2026:

1. Safe homes and neighbourhoods
2. Safe and respectful relationships and
3. Safer Cities

The plan was informed by both the concerns and issues identified by the community and further supported by research and data from multiple sources, including The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR), The Australian Bureau of Statistics and localised crime data and statistics sourced from Police. For the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA), Malicious Damage to Property was the crime type with the highest rate of incidents in 2020. Figure one shows the top five crime types for Wagga Wagga LGA by number of incidents for the most recent reporting period on BOCSAR January to December 2020.

Highest rate of incident by crime type for Wagga Wagga LGA (January 2020 - December 2020)



Figure 1: Highest rate of incident by crime type for Wagga Wagga LGA (January 2020 - December 2020)

Further to this, five key items were identified by community. These five items were:

1. Break and enter of homes (e.g., burglary or theft from houses)
2. Domestic and family violence (e.g., verbal, psychological, emotional, financial, physical, sexual, spiritual or religious, reproductive or image based)
3. Arson (e.g., setting fire to bins/cars/houses/trees)
4. Sale and use of illegal drugs
5. Alcohol related assault

This plan outlines the strategies and actions for the next four years to increase safety, reduce crime where possible and work toward building a safe and vibrant city for the future. Council will therefore monitor the implementation of the plan, oversee Council assigned responsibilities and obtain updates from key stakeholders regarding deliverables where partnerships exist with Council. The plan will be monitored annually with progress reports made available to our existing and future partners and general community. This will be made available on Council's consultation platform - Connect Wagga - where a Community Safety Action Plan page has been established.

Legislative frameworks

The Community Safety Action Plan considers legislative frameworks to provide guidance and courses of actions for all key stakeholders to abide by. These include;

Premiers priorities - outcomes

- Reducing Domestic Violence reoffending (reduce by 25% by 2023)
- Reducing recidivism in the prison population (reduce by 5% by 2023)
- Greener Public Spaces (increase by 10% by 2023)
- Towards Zero Suicides (decrease by 20% by 2023)
- Reducing homelessness (decrease by 50% by 2023)

Other strategic plans of relevance

1. **NSW Police**
Road Policing Strategy 2021
Statement of Strategic Intent –
‘Proactive Partnership Policing’
A Safer NSW
Purpose: To prevent, disrupt and respond
2. **NSW Department of Communities and Justice**
NSW Law Reform – Safer communities
Reducing Reoffending Strategy
3. **Strategic framework for Suicide Prevention in NSW 2018 – 2023**

Key legislation

- Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 (CDPV Act)
- Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997
- Graffiti Control Act 2008
- Coercive Control - Preethi's Law - Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Amendment Bill 2020

Council Strategies

Where does the Community Safety Action Plan 2026 fit within Council?

The Wagga Wagga Community Safety Action Plan 2026 is a level 2 strategic document that guides Council with a framework of priorities and actions for a four-year period. It is written in line with the Thriving, Innovation, Connected and Inclusive guiding principles of Council and works towards the visions of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2040.

CSP 2040 strategic directions

- Community leadership and collaboration
- Safe and healthy community

CSP objectives:

- Wagga Wagga has strong community leadership and a shared vision for the future
- Wagga Wagga City Council leads through engaged civic governance and is recognised and distinguished by its ethical decision-making, efficient management, innovation and quality customer service
- Our community feel safe
- Our community has access to health and support services that cater for all of our needs

Other Wagga Wagga City Council plans that work towards community safety include:

- The Wagga Wagga City Council Cultural Plan 2020 – 30
- Draft Reconciliation Action Plan 2022 – 2025
- Draft All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2026
- Wagga Wagga Active Travel Plan 2016
- Playground Strategy 2016 – 2036
- Recreation, Open Space and Community Strategy and Implementation Plan 2040
- The Wagga Wagga City Council Graffiti Management Plan 2017 – 2021

Wagga Wagga demographics¹



65,770 resident population

ABS estimated resident population June 2020



51% female

49% male



80,984 by 2036

an additional 11,461



35 years old

is the median age

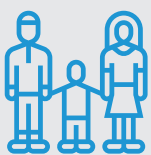


64% worked full-time

34% worked part-time



\$1353 is the median weekly household income



28.1% of households are couples with children



21.9% of the population reported doing some form of voluntary work

Our multicultural community

Top 5 languages

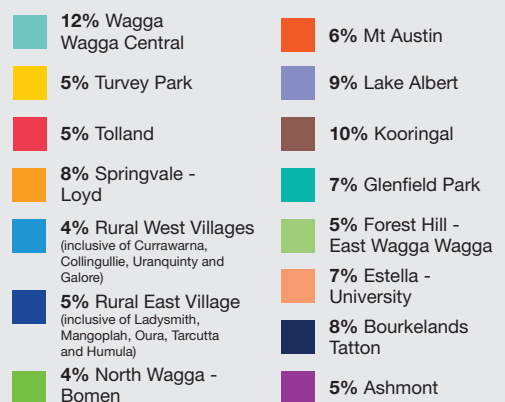
(other than English) in 2021²

1. Arabic
2. Burmese
3. Kurdish Krmanji
4. Hazaragi
5. Swahili



Where do we live

(based on 2025 estimates)



COVID-19

The COVID19 pandemic impacted the way people live, work and socialise on a global scale. Across the nation, we saw that an enormous variety of industries and services impacted by the pandemic and the way we conduct business change overnight. When looking at what community safety means to individuals, research has shown that individuals' experiences and perceived vulnerability to risk of, and exposure to, crime is often tied in with general wellbeing principles. These principles incorporate other key psychosocial factors such as health, social support and mental health and wellbeing (Source: Kidd, Garry, and Anderson, Stacey (2015) Community safety, perceptions, and psychosocial factors: a selective review. International Journal of Humanities and Social Science, 5 (7). 1. pp. 1-10.). As such, it was important to acknowledge how COVID19 impacted the feelings of community safety and wellbeing.

Many events, projects and programs that were planned for 2020 and 2021 were cancelled or postponed as people adjusted to the ever-changing situation. One specific example is the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census. Traditionally conducted every 5 years, the last release of data was in 2016 to provide a snapshot of the country. Due to occur next in 2020, this nation-wide event was not conducted until August 2021, with data expected to be released from this point June 2022.

The flow on impact of this delay means that the majority of data represented in the Community Safety Action Plan 2025 is based on 2016 census data. Where possible, Wagga Wagga City Council has worked with key community safety stakeholders to source more up to date data but many expressed uncertainties that the data available would truly reflect the degree of hardships experienced. Circumstances experienced in the community because of COVID had impacted so significantly and key community safety stakeholders anecdotally shared that there would be a delay in reflecting its true impact. Council would like to thank those organisations that assisted with this and acknowledge that all the data sourced in the development of the plan is as accurate and up to date as permitted under the circumstances.

Wagga Wagga City Council acknowledged the sudden change in areas such as social connection and employment, which brought with it an increased need for emergency aid. Wagga Wagga City Council worked collaboratively with key stakeholders throughout the lock down periods to ensure that all community members had access to information regarding crisis supports available to them and any changes in service delivery and operating hours³.

Summary of achievements from Wagga Wagga City Council's Crime Prevention Plan 2017 - 2021

The Crime Prevention Plan 2021 was developed in response to emerging trends that were happening across the city in 2016 and 2017. It aimed to work towards building effective partnerships with key stakeholders in the areas of safety in public places, safety in the home and youth engagement and to provide a four-year plan to reduce crime and increase safety where possible. The Crime Prevention Plan 2021 successfully completed over 90% of its strategies and actions.

Year One: 2017 - 2018

Completed		
Unfunded programs	7 out of 9	78% (remainder unfunded)
Partly Funded	3 out of 3	100%
Funded	15 out of 18	83%
	25 out of 30 programs	83% (all funded items not completed have been carried over)

Highlights

- The installation of CCTV in a number of high-risk locations has reduced the rates of graffiti incidents
- Safety Action Meetings implemented with Wagga Wagga Local Area Command ran regularly to bring together key stakeholders who provide services to support Family and Domestic violence
- Anglicare's Youth at Risk program exceeded annual targets with 83% of young people that completed their case plans, not reoffending
- Completion of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Community Strategy and Wagga Wagga City Council Graffiti Management Plan
- Council assisted Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RIVMED) to secure \$275,000 to run evening programs for young peoples in social housing areas.

Year Two: 2018 - 2019

Completed		
Unfunded programs	5 out of 5	-
Funded	5 out of 5	-
	10 out of 10	100% completion rate

Highlights

- Police Youth Action Meetings (YAM) commenced in late 2018, to coordinate service providers and government to look at a more collaborative approach to individuals who are high offending juveniles
- NSW Department of Communities and Justice worked with Wagga Wagga City Council Social Planning Unit to seek local interest in a new funding package "Youth on Track". (An early intervention scheme designed to coordinate services for 10 - 17 year olds at risk of long-term involvement in the criminal justice system)
- An Adolescent Court & Community Team Clinician commenced at NSW Department of Communities and Justice
- A Men's Behavioural program (to address men's behaviour in domestic violence) run by Relationships Australia, secured further funding and will roll out for delivery late March 2019
- RIVMED commenced an evening program, one night a week for young people. The program consists of a bus running for pickups and drop offs, provision of a meal, and a range of entertainment options.

• Year Three: 2019 - 2020

Completed		
Unfunded programs	3 out of 3	-
Funded	5 out of 5	-
Party funded	1 out of 1	100%
	9 out of 9	100% completion rate



Overall **94%**
completion rate

Other key highlights

- Park Smart campaign delivered in August 2019 – joint project with Wagga Wagga Local Area Police and Wagga Wagga City Council. The Park Smart campaign which ended in 2020, aimed to address concerns around theft from motor vehicles and raise awareness of the risks of leaving vehicles unlocked and valuables in sight.
- Crime Prevention Working Group August 2019 – July 2020
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design CPTED training for new staff to ensure that items 1.1 and 2.1 of the Crime Prevention Plan can be implemented. This was also relevant to Council's Development Control Plans.
- Learn, Engage, Aspire, Perform (LEAP) with Compact still running successfully in Wagga Wagga and surrounds. The program reengages student through self-discovery, highlighting the relevance of school and education, preparing them for life outside school. Students are involved in real life projects that develop a sense of ownership that bring enjoyment to learning. A program was last completed at Koorngal High in July 2020.

Overall: 94% completion rate



Key Wagga Wagga City Council community safety initiatives during 2017 - 2021

Safe homes and neighborhoods

'Slow Down In My Street' campaign

Council encouraged drivers to slow down on local roads through the installation of temporary 'Slow Down' signs on selected streets. The aim of these signs was to remind and encourage drivers to slow down and not exceed the speed limit. Initially, five residential streets and five rural roads were selected, however, the initiative is still ongoing and community can submit their street for consideration at: <https://wagga.nsw.gov.au/services/roads-and-transport/road-safety>. The NSW Police Local Area Command also targeted streets displaying high concern of accidents and speeding during the initial phase of the campaign. Fines and demerit points were issued to any motorist caught speeding.

Community mural in Wilga Park in Koorringal to promote community ownership

The project was funded by the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Fund and the Department of Communities and Justice. The mural forms a vibrant backdrop to other park upgrades which have occurred over the last two years, including new park furniture and landscaping that was designed in consultation with residents of the neighbourhood to create a local place for the Wilga Park community to enjoy.

DE-TAG program with Community Corrections

The DE-TAG Graffiti Removal Program is joint initiative of Wagga Wagga City Council, Department of Communities and Justice and PCYC. Persons convicted of graffiti offences will be court ordered to participate in the DE-TAG program to clean and remove graffiti.

Safe and respectful relationships

TheDVproject: 2650

TheDVproject: 2650 saw Wagga Wagga City Council work in partnership with the Wagga Women's Health Centre and Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network. The project aimed to help the community understand the cause of violence against women and their children, promote gender equality and respect for women, and challenge rigid gender stereotypes. There were three project pillars: organisational change, sector engagement and community-wide campaigns.

Below are the key initiatives for each project pillar:

Organisational change

- **Culture** – Internal equity and respect branding, gender audit and equity survey, workplace equity strategy and workplace action plan
- **Education** – Our Watch 'Change the story training', unconscious bias and inclusivity training, active bystander training, NRL's voice against violence workshops
- **Resources** – inclusive language guide, gender decoder for job advertisements, toolkit for manager and supervisors, equity and respect workplace toolkit, a family room
- **Internal campaigns and events** – 16 days of activism, international women's day/NSW women's week, women's health week and harmony day

Sector engagement

- Enlighten for Equity
- Wiradjuri and First Nations Youth Project

This project saw Wagga Wagga City Council work with Wiradjuri artists (Owen Lyons and Teisha Robinson), and local high schools (Mt Austin High School, Mater Dei Catholic College, Koorringal High School, Kildare Catholic College and Indie School.)

The students involved were keen to explore symbols and make designs that represented connection and care for one another. As the workshops unfolded, the importance of the river as a place of healing and source of life has also become apparent. The result of this project was an artwork installed near the new 3x3 basketball courts at Riverside. Having the art work installed in this location continues a lifelong message to all of equity and respect in sport, in the community and with each other, all the time.

- NRL's voice against violence workshops (high schools, sporting clubs)
- DVNSW and Local Government NSW
- Multicultural Council Social Support- Safe place to land

Community wide campaigns

- My Story. Our Story
- 16 Days of Activism
- Reflect Respect – the modern day guide for gentlemen
- We do respect
- Odette – Herald Tour
- 'No excuse' – DV campaign, in partnership with Wagga Wagga's Community Drug Action Team

Safer cities

- Park smart campaign (2019)
Joint initiative with Wagga Wagga City Council and Wagga Wagga Local Area Command - Police
- Homelessness awareness – Wilks Park signage
- SafeT360 truck visits to Wagga Wagga High Schools
- 'One punch can kill' initiative
- 'Re-think the sneaky drink' initiative
- Child Restraint program





Developing the Community Safety Action Plan

What is Community Safety?

Community safety is about recognising the need for all sections of the community to work together to create a safer environment for people to work, live and travel. This means building partnerships between police, government agencies, local councils, community organisations and individuals to promote and realise community safety for all.

What is Wagga Wagga City Council's role for a Safer Community?

Wagga Wagga City Council's role in community safety is distributed across four key categories - Facilitate, Advocate, Deliver, Partner. This includes:

- Facilitation of partnerships with key emergency response agencies, community safety stakeholders and community support services groups
- Coordinating educational campaigns, activation events, programs and information that increases the communities safety literacy
- Advocating on behalf of the Wagga Wagga LGA to all levels of Government and key local agencies for allocation of resources
- Delivery of regulatory control and environmental services
- Urban Planning/Environmental Design (across the built, social, economic and natural environments)
- Emergency Response & Recovery Planning (COVID Response, Flooding)

The review of the New South Wales local crime prevention planning process in 2005 recognised the growing role local government plays in community safety and crime prevention. They noted that 'Part 4 of the Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 describes a provision that supports the development of local crime prevention plans by LGAs. The aim of these plans is to reduce crime and develop a safer environment through promoting community involvement in plan development ⁴'

The Australian Institute of Criminology also explored this concept further in their Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice article (No. 505) in July 2015. They supported the concept that local government has a role to play but noted the reality of this is often quite varied. They state 'there are many practical reasons for this', with one being the identification of 'important gaps, such as funding and staffing and opportunities to improve collaboration between government and the private and non-government organisation sectors'.

The United Nations Office of Drug & Crime through its publication Handbook on Crime Prevention Guidelines —describes the role Local Government plays in community safety and crime prevention. Some key concepts include integration with other existing prevention work, the understanding of the role whole of community plays in making a community safer, considerations of crime reduction being integrated into other areas of Council such as town planning, economic development, parks and recreation⁵.

Community Consultations

When developing the Community Safety Action Plan 2026, Council relied on multiple sources of data and consultation to determine the three priority areas and to shape the actions and goals.

The first step of the process was to include community in the conversation. The Community Safety Perception survey was distributed through the community from February 2020 to March 2020 and saw 674 community members contributing their ideas, perceptions and recommendations on community safety. To ensure all community had access to the survey, hard copies were available at Councils Customer Service Counter, Wagga Wagga City Library and distributed throughout the community centres in Ashmont, Tolland and Koorngal and at the Multicultural Council. In addition, the survey was available online on the connect Wagga platform and promoted through Councils social media suites, via direct email and through newsletters and Council news and multiple community engagement sessions were delivered across the city.

From our survey and community consultations, community was asked to rank their top community concerns and identified five key items. This allowed Council to building the following three priority areas:



1. Safe Homes and neighbourhoods

- Malicious damage to property – **top priority**
- Break and enter home – **top priority**
- Steal from dwelling
- Arson
- Steal from motor vehicle



2. Safe and respectful relationships

- Domestic violence related assault – **top priority**
- Breach bail conditions – **top priority**
- Sexual assault
- Intimidation stalking and harassment
- Breach apprehended violence order



3. Safer cities

- Malicious damage to property – **top priority**
- Non-domestic related assault
- Sale and use of illegal drugs
- Steal from retail

Crime data and statistics were reviewed in conjunction with community data to determine trends and areas of concern. The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) is the main source of comprehensive crime data and plays a pivotal role in providing insight into current trends, issues, and concerns.

Key community stakeholders in the area of crime prevention and safety also provided information and data around current initiatives. The anecdotal evidence provided by these organisations also assists in understanding of community safety issues but also what they are currently undertaking in attempts to address these needs.

What our community told us

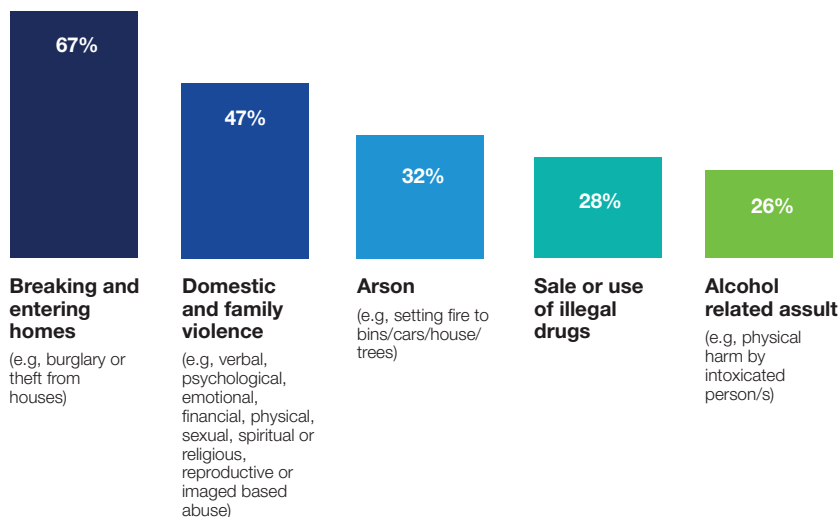
Council consulted with the community and key stakeholders from November 2020 to October 2021 across a variety of platforms. Key stakeholder organisations consulted included:

- NSW Police - Wagga Wagga Local Area Command
- Department of Communities and Justice
Youth Justice
Community Corrections; and
Housing
- Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga
- Mission Australia
- Red Cross
- Neighbourhood Watch Member – Mathieu Nolte
- Wagga Women's Health Centre
- Domestic Violence Liaison Committee
- NSW Health

Engagement with community was equally as vital to building the plan and ensuring it met the needs of current trends and concern. The community guided the development of the priority areas in the community safety perception survey and gave invaluable feedback as to what they believed the key areas of concern were in their neighbourhoods.

- 68% of survey respondents identified as female vs 30% male with the remaining 2% identifying as non-binary or preferring not to say
- The largest group of respondents were aged 35 to 54 (34%)
- 65% of respondents answered yes to having been concerned about their safety in the last 12 months with 18% of this cohort being aged 45 to 54

Top five community concerns



It is important to further understand our community in the contexts of different cohorts which add to the diversity of Wagga Wagga. These include First Nations, youth, and multiculturally diverse community members.

Community safety perception survey and targeted engagement



Total of **674**
surveys completed

The Community Safety Perception survey was completed by community members from across a diverse range of backgrounds, cultures, and ages. The survey was available on the connectwagga webpage and hard copies were available at Council's customer service counter and Wagga Wagga City Library.

Specific engagement sessions were held in social disadvantage communities including Tolland, Ashmont and Kooringal to ensure all community members had the opportunity to share their thoughts.

What our First Nations community told us

Considerable work was undertaken to ensure the voices of First Nations people were included in the plan with community consultation sessions delivered in partnership with Mission Australia and Red Cross Australia at the community centres across Ashmont, Tolland and Kooringal.

Key data from these sessions includes but is not limited to the following:

- 13% of respondents of the Community Safety Perception survey identified as Aboriginal.
- Over 60% of Aboriginal respondents identified that they have been concerned about their safety in the city in the last 12 months in the community safety perception survey
- 70% of First Nations respondents identified break and enter of home as their number one priority.



Total of **180** young
people surveyed

What our young people told us

Youth Forums & Mayoral Breakfast

Council engaged with local High Schools and discussed community safety and crime concerns with 150 Year 9 and 10 students and school leaders and captains from across Wagga.

The school-based forums empowered young people to engage with Council staff to rank their top community concerns, discuss their experiences with/of crime and to brainstorm potential solutions to increase safety across the Wagga Wagga LGA.

Key data from these sessions includes but is not limited to the following:

- Young people in Wagga Wagga were engaged with the development of the Community Safety Action Plan on many different levels. The "Shape Your City" youth forums held in November 2020 and June 2021 and Mayoral Breakfasts gave young people the opportunity to discuss concerns and priorities specific for youth within the city
- 183 young people aged between 10 and 24 completed the Community Safety Perception survey
- 63% of students identified domestic and family violence as their top community concern, closely followed by breaking and entering of homes, arson, sale or use of illegal drugs and alcohol related assault
- Lighting was raised as an important component to young people that would increase their feelings of safety across the city.

What our Multicultural community told us

In partnership with the Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga, Council ensured the voices of our multicultural community were embedded in the development of the plan. To reduce language and literacy barriers, participants were offered the opportunity to complete the survey either online or in hard copy with staff support.

Key data from these sessions includes but is not limited to the following:

- 14% of respondents of the Community Safety Perception survey identified that they were from a culturally diverse backgrounds with over 33 different languages spoken in the home
- 57% of respondents were female vs 41% with only 2% preferring not to say
- 58% of respondents from culturally linguistic diverse back grounds have been concerned about their safety in the past 12 months
- The number one community concern for our multicultural community is safety in their homes with 57.9% of respondents selecting break and enter of homes.

Key data and statistics for the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area

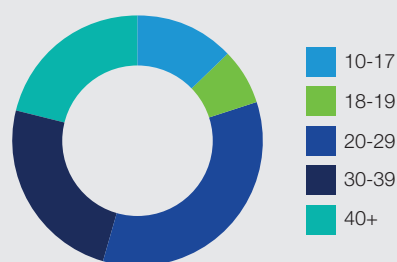
Key Facts: Crime in Wagga Wagga 2020⁶

Incidents reported



Ages of offenders

55% of offenders in 2020 were aged under 29.



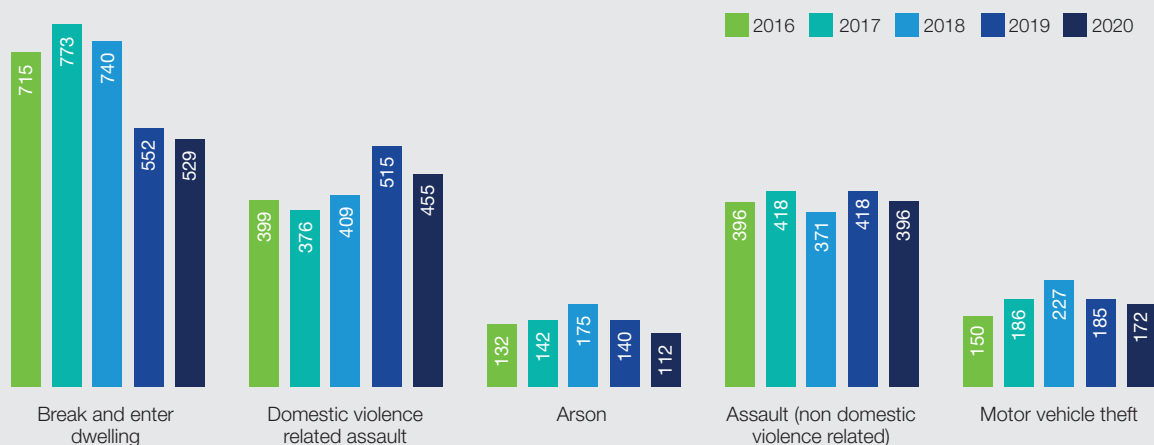
How we rank in New South Wales

Out of 128 Local Government Areas (LGAs)

- 7th** Break and enter (dwelling)
- 11th** Malicious damage to property
- 12th** Arson
- 13th** Steal from motor vehicle
- 14th** Assault (non-domestic violence related)
- 19th** Motor vehicle theft
- 21st** Assault (domestic violence related)
- 23rd** Possession and/or use of cannabis

Five-year trend

On top five community concerns.



- The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) is the main source of comprehensive crime data and plays a pivotal role in providing insight into current trends, issues, and concerns.

When analysing crime data for the Community Safety Action Plan, Council looked to two data sets to build a picture of what is happening across the city.

1. Highest number of incidents
2. Local Government Area (LGA) ranking

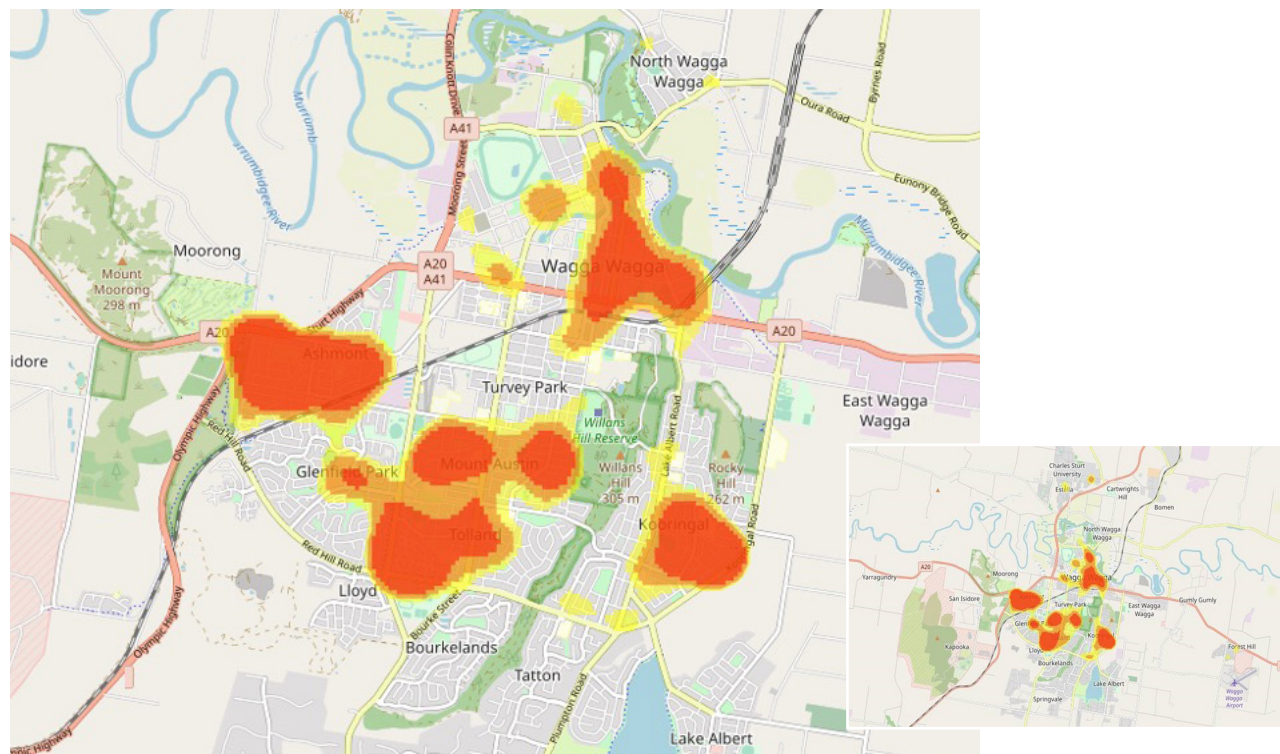
Highest number of incidents

Where rate of incident is high and this has continued to increase over the years, it highlights to the community that this is a high priority level in terms of need. Reviewing this data allows for insights into how many incidents are being reported in a specific time period but also allows for investigations into rates per month and time frames of when crime occurs.

The five highest rates of incidents from January 2020 – December 2020 are as follows

	Crime types	Number of incidents
1	Malicious damage to property	952
2	Breach bail conditions	603
3	Break and enter dwelling	529
4	Harrassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisance	492
5	Steal from motor vehicle	468

Malicious damage to property



Hotspot map: Incidents of Malicious Damage to Property from January 2021 to December 2021

Malicious damage to property can be defined as ‘*damage caused on purpose to the property of another person*’ (Source: Collins dictionary). Acts can include vandalism, graffiti or intentional damage and can take place in several different settings including personal, private or commercial property.

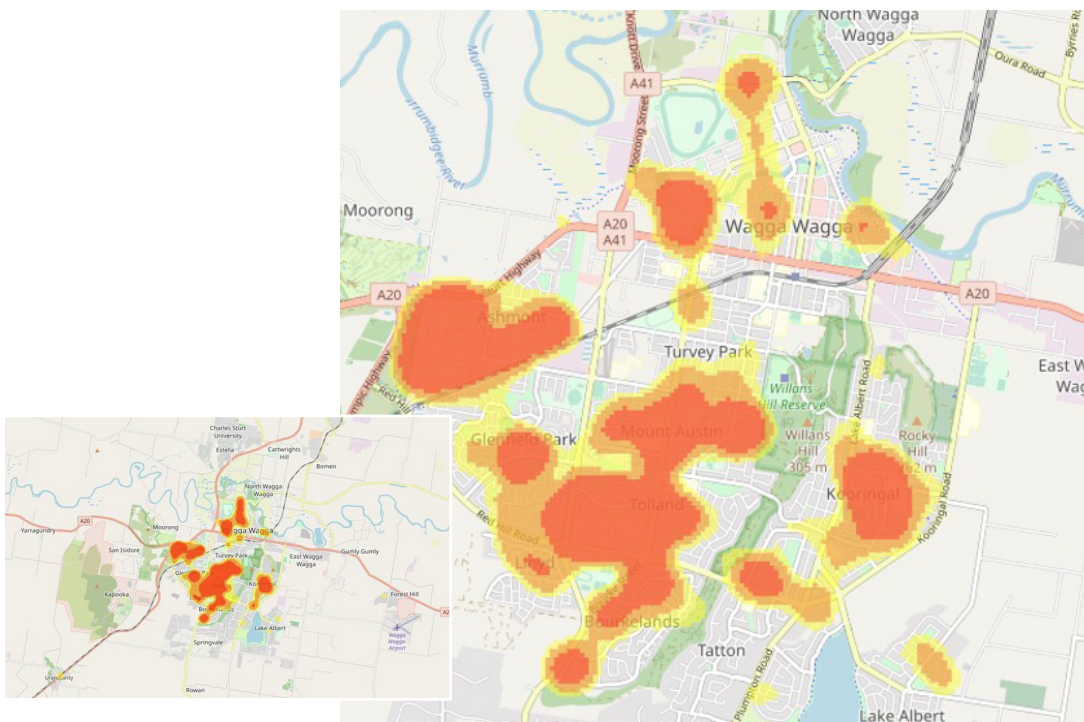
From January 2020 to December 2020, Wagga Wagga LGA reported 952 incidents of malicious damage to property. The largest offender group of this crime type were males aged 20 – 29 year. February 2020 was the month containing the highest reported incidents, with Friday 6pm to 12am being the time period of highest occurrence of the crime type.

Breach of bail conditions

The crime type ‘breach of bail conditions’ sits within a reporting cluster called ‘Against justice procedures’ for the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. This cluster reports on a range of activities that encompass escape custody, breach apprehended violence order (AVO), breach bail conditions, fail to appear, resist or hinder officer and other offences against justice procedures.

From January 2020 to December 2020 Wagga Wagga reported 603 incidents of breach of bail conditions. The largest offender group of this crime type were males aged 20 – 29 years. May 2020 saw the highest number of against justice procedures incidents occurring specifically on a Wednesday between the hours of 6am and 12pm.

Break and enter dwelling



Hotspot map: Break and Enter Dwelling from January 2021 to December 2021

NSW Department of Communities and Justice defines break and enter (also known as burglary) as “when someone enters someone else’s home without permission in order to steal something”⁷.

From January 2020 to December 2020 there was 529 incidents of break and enter dwelling.

Intimidation, stalking and harassment

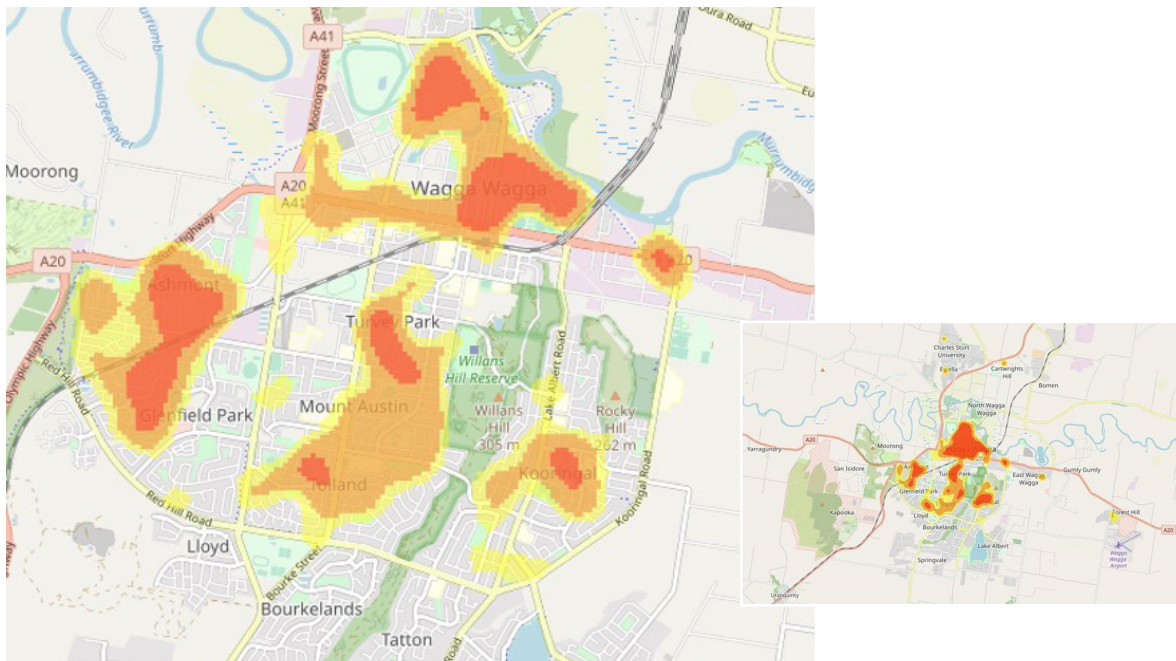
The Crime (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 (NSW) defines stalking as:

‘The following of a person about or the watching or frequenting of the vicinity of, or an approach to a person’s place of residence, business or work or any place that a person frequents for the purposes of any activity’.

From January 2020 to December 2020 Wagga Wagga reported 492 incidents of intimidation, stalking and harassment. The largest offender group were males aged 20 – 29 years, who made up 41% of alleged offenders. The largest victim group for this crime type were females aged 18 – 29 years.

September saw the highest number of incidents occurring (total of 59) on a Saturday evening from 6pm to 12am. 16% of these were recorded as alcohol related incidents.

Steal from motor vehicle



Hotspot map: Steal from Motor Vehicle from January 2021 to December 2021

July saw the highest number of incidents occurring (total of 21) on a Saturday mornings from 12am to 6am.

Although domestic violence related assault did not fall within the top 5 highest rate of incidence for Wagga Wagga LGA, consultations with community and key stakeholders indicated this was the top priority crime type of concern. The lack of availability of up to date data to reflect accurate insights into this crime type means it can not be reflected in our plan through BOCSAR statistics, however, anecdotal insights provided from Wagga Wagga Local Area Command and Department of Communities and Justice suggest this will be an area these organisations target throughout 2022 and beyond.

It is also important to note there is a pending amendment to the Domestic and Family Violence Act that will recognise Coercive Control as a criminal offence. Wagga Wagga City Council will continue to monitor this development and utilise any insights, statistics and data sets surrounding this new crime type to inform priority actions.

The Judicial Commission office defines a “domestic violence offence” as *an offence committed against a person with whom the offender has (or has had) a domestic relationship*⁸.

From January 2020 to December 2020 Wagga Wagga reported 455 incidents of domestic violence related assault with the largest cohort of offenders being males aged 20 – 29 years. The largest victim cohort was made up of females between the ages of 18 – 29. 32% of these were also identified as being alcohol related.

Local Government Area ranking.

Council and partners look to where Wagga Wagga ranks for particular crime types in comparison to the 127 other Local Government Areas (LGA). Rankings are statistical equations that factor in the number of incidents of reported crime against a rate per 100,000 population. For example, an LGA ranked #1 out of 128 (or close to the top) for any reported crime has the highest incidents of that crime against the population rate.

Council, Police and partners pay particular attention to the crime types that Wagga Wagga ranks high in, in comparison to other LGA's, as a flag for potential areas of concern, need or where gaps in servicing may be contributing. Below shows three particular crime types where Wagga Wagga LGA ranked in the top 10.

Crime type	2020
Steal from retail store	5
Steal from dwelling	7
Break and enter – dwelling	7



Safe homes + neighbourhoods

Priority one

The priority area Safe Homes and Neighbourhoods works towards building cohesive communities and the actions individuals, Council and agencies can take to reduce the opportunity for crime to occur in our homes and neighbourhoods.

Wagga Wagga City Council want to acknowledge the community services and supports that are delivering programs designed to address community safety. The priorities and action items listed noted in this plan operate to compliment these existing initiatives and work within the wider context of them.

Safe homes and neighbourhoods

- Malicious damage to property
- Break and enter dwelling
- Steal from motor vehicle
- Steal from dwelling
- Arson

Premiers Priorities

- Keeping children safe
- Reducing homelessness
- Greener public spaces

Community Strategic Plan 2040 Objectives (draft CSP 2040)

- Wagga Wagga has strong community leadership and a shared vision for the future
- Wagga Wagga City Council leads through engaged civic governance and is recognised and distinguished by its ethical decision-making, efficient management, innovation and quality customer service
- Our community feel safe
- Our community has access to health and support services that cater for all of our needs

Safe homes and neighbourhoods deliverables

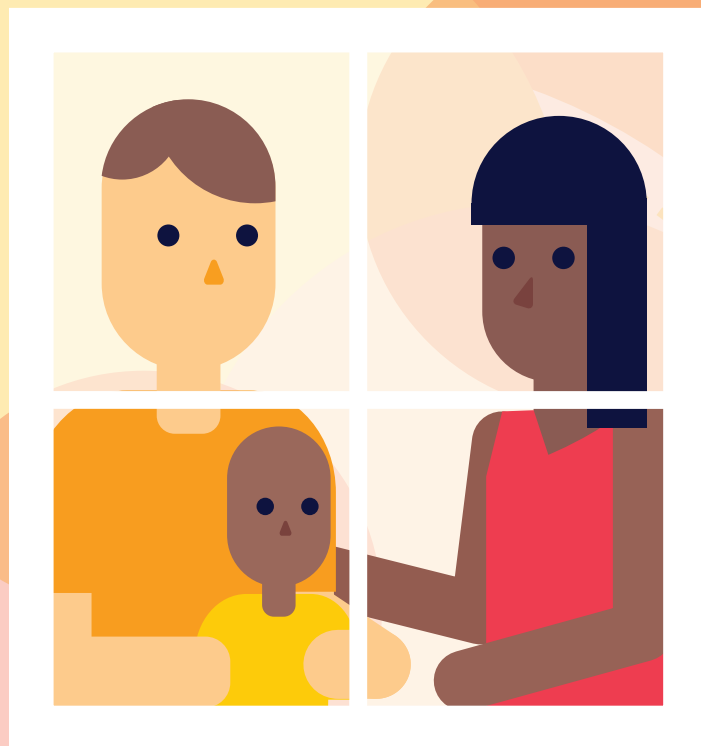
- Facilitate
- Provide
- Partner
- Advocate

Action Plan

Deliverable	Year			
	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
1.1 Advocate for additional resources through grant funding opportunities to address community safety concerns for key community crime prevention stakeholders, in particular, those impacting on children and young people	•	•	•	•
1.2 Provide infrastructure, development approvals and amenity upgrades in line with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Principles	•	•	•	•
1.3 Advocate for training opportunities in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) training to key departments of Wagga Wagga City Council such as regional activation, town and social planning	•	•		
1.4 Wagga Wagga City Council to review and update a Graffiti Management Plan	•	•	•	

I feel safe in my neighbourhood but I think lots more can be done by encouraging neighbourhoods to watch out for each other, actively promoting safety and increased security around your own home to make it harder for people to break in and steal stuff.'

Anonymous User , 22 Feb 2021, 09:13 PM - Community Safety Perception Survey



Safe + respectful relationships

Priority two

Council recognises that a whole community approach is the only way to work toward safer and respectful relationships. Part of this is around recognising the impact of domestic and family violence, coercive control and the importance of increased recognition and education around this important issue.

This priority also focuses on how we engage with our neighbourhoods on wider safety considerations that are important to our community.

Safe and respectful relationships

- Breach bail conditions
- Intimidation stalking and harassment
- Domestic violence related assault
- Breach apprehended violence order
- Sexual assault

Premiers Priorities

- Reducing domestic violence reoffending
- Keeping Children Safe – protecting our most vulnerable children

Community Strategic Plan 2040 Objectives (draft CSP 2040)

- Wagga Wagga has strong community leadership and a shared vision for the future
- Wagga Wagga City Council leads through engaged civic governance and is recognised and distinguished by its ethical decision-making, efficient management, innovation and quality customer service
- Our community feel safe
- Our community has access to health and support services that cater for all of our needs

Although the crime type of Domestic Violence related assault did not rank within Wagga Wagga LGA's top 5 crimes by rate of incidence, it was routinely brought up in community and key stakeholder consultations alike.

Action Plan

Deliverable	Year			
	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
2.1 Partner & Facilitate – Partner with Wagga Wagga Local Area Command to facilitate delivery of quarterly Community Safety Precinct meetings	•	•	•	•
2.2 Partner with Wagga Wagga Local Area Command and Wiradjuri and First Nations Elders to deliver a Police Aboriginal Consultative Committee monthly	•	•	•	•
2.3 Partner with domestic violence related community organisations to acknowledge 16 Days of Activism (annually November to December) through delivery of events	•	•	•	•
2.4 Partner with Wagga Women's Health to provide educational workshops for schools, as an outcome of the DV2650 primary prevention project	•			
2.5 Partner – Wagga Wagga City Council sit on local Domestic Violence Liaison Committee	•	•	•	•
2.6 Partner – Wagga Wagga City Council to facilitate linkage between Wagga Women's Health Centre and Wiradjuri Elders to organise a Domestic Violence focused First Nations consultative committee	•			

"Domestic and Family Violence, more notably Coercive Control, is described as 'patterns of abusive behaviour designed to exercise domination and control over the other party to a relationship. It is often a process that happens slowly over time and can be nuanced in nature, making it difficult to identify. It can include a range of abusive behaviours – physical, psychological, emotional or financial – the cumulative effect of which over time robs victim-survivors of their autonomy and independence as an individual'⁹"



Safer cities

Priority three

Safer cities

- Malicious damage to property
- Steal from motor vehicle
- Steal from retail
- Non – domestic related assault

Premiers Priorities

- Better environment
- Greener public spaces

Community Strategic Plan 2040 Objectives (draft CSP 2040)

- Wagga Wagga has strong community leadership and a shared vision for the future
- Wagga Wagga City Council leads through engaged civic governance and is recognised and distinguished by its ethical decision-making, efficient management, innovation and quality customer service
- Our community feel safe
- Our community has access to health and support services that cater for all of our needs

Action Plan

Deliverable	Year			
	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
3.1 Partner & Facilitate – Wagga Wagga Local Area Command to facilitate delivery of monthly Police Aboriginal Consultative Committee meetings	•	•	•	•
3.2 Facilitate & Provide – the funding and running of the De-Tag program in the Wagga Wagga LGA in partnership with Department of Communities and Justice – Community Corrections	•			
3.3 Provide – Wagga City Council be the auspice of funds to run local Community Drug Action Team	•			
3.4 Wagga Wagga City Council to plan and advocate for funding to use functional and or creative lighting treatments to enhance lighting across the city and improve safety in public spaces. Lighting to be prioritised to the high crime areas highlighted through hotspot mapping and in consultation with relevant stakeholders.	•	•	•	•
3.5 Wagga Wagga City Council to conduct regular Licensed Premises Reference Group meetings with Wagga Wagga Local Area Command representation. This is to ensure CPTED principles are considered for proposed developments involving licensed premises, proposing late night trading hours or events where alcohol is served	•	•	•	•
3.6 Partner and provide- Wagga Wagga City Council to review and update CCTV memorandum of understanding (MOU) in collaboration with Wagga Wagga Local Area Command	•	•		
3.7 Council to include CPTED in any updates of the Development Control Plans across all four years.	•	•	•	•

"More lighting, more CCTV and use art and light to make dark areas more visible and attractive. I love the new mural in the Main Street and it makes people feel safe to see it so bright and well lit".

Anonymous User, 23 Feb 2021, 07:31 PM - Community Safety Perception Survey

Monitoring and evaluation

It will be Council's responsibility to monitor the implementation of the plan and communicate outcomes to the community. The plan will be monitored in accordance with the corporate reporting framework. Progress reports will be presented on Council's consultation platform - Connect Wagga on the established Community Safety Action Plan page (wagga.nsw.gov.au)



References

1. Based on the 2016 Census data by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Source: Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2036, prepared by .id (informed decisions), October 2017.
2. Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga
3. Household Impacts of COVID-19 Survey, June 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)
4. <https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/reviewing-the-new-south-wales-local-crime-prevention-planning-process.pdf>
5. https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Handbook_on_Crime_Prevention_Guidelines_-_Making_them_work.pdf
6. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) January 2020 – December 2020 for the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA)
7. <http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Pages/cpd/protecthome/protecthome.aspx>
8. https://www.judcom.nsw.gov.au/publications/benchbks/sentencing/domestic_violence_offences.html
9. Source: Paul McGorrery and Marilyn McMahon 'Criminalising Coercive Control: An Introduction' in Marilyn McMahon and Paul McGorrery (eds) Criminalising Coercive Control: Family Violence and the Criminal Law (Springer, 2020)



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