City of Perth

SAFE CITY PLAN

2021-2025

With a goal as bold as;
residents, workers and visitors identify Perth as a safe city, this plan needs to show it's ready and able to achieve that. The targeted focal areas and objectives show that we are gearing toward making the goal a reality.

Contents

Executive summary

Community safety and crime prevention is important to the community and is clearly outlined in the following aspiration for People in the City's 2019 Strategic Community Plan:

The City aspires for Perth to be known as a liveable, sustainable and prosperous city. With the goal of making the City of Perth a destination of choice to visit, work, study, shop and live.

SafeCity strategies have been in place at the City of Perth since 2006. This new SafeCity Plan is the result of a review and update of the *SafeCity Strategy 2016 -2020* and aligns with other City strategies and plans, and our external statutory obligations.

It was developed by utilising internal staff subject knowledge, extensive public engagement and stakeholder feedback.

Our goal for this *SafeCity Plan 2021-2025* is clear:

Residents, workers and visitors identify Perth as a safe city

To help achieve this goal, the five identified focus areas reflect a destination, rather than the causes of problems or safety issues.

- Safe Places
- Seeing and Responding
- Engaged Community
- Healthy Headspace
- Prepared Community

The SafeCity Plan sets the framework for the City of Perth's services around community safety. Achievement of objectives will be assessed annually and actions will be implemented through the annual service planning cycle.

Of course, community safety is not the sole responsibility of the City of Perth. To maximise safety and reduce negative impacts from crime and emergencies in the city, collaboration with the WA Police Force (WAPF), government agencies and the community is essential as outlined in Table 2 on page 30.

Introduction

"Safety is a fundamental need of society. Failure to address a person's safety needs can stifle societal growth". Maslow 1943.[1]

All residents, workers and visitors should feel safe in the city, both day and night. People of all ages and cultural groups should feel comfortable engaging in organised activities and be able to linger in public spaces and parks to enjoy our vibrant community life.

We aim to achieve a safe city by having a community that is engaged in the process and solutions, resilient and brave enough to not accept behaviours that run contrary to societal norms, healthy in their own self and space, and ready to respond to the rest of society's needs in spaces that are safe and welcoming.

This Plan addresses the key focus areas that can do the greatest good for the community's actual and perceived sense of safety.

While the City of Perth plays a pivotal role in community safety it cannot do this alone.

We all have a crucial role in looking after our own safety and that of others, therefore it is up to us all to work together to achieve a safe city. To do this we will adopt the Safe Community Model and seek Pan Pacific Safe Community Accreditation.

Structure of the Plan

This Plan establishes Key Focus Areas, related Objectives and targeted Actions.

The Plan will be reviewed every four years with actions evaluated in line with shifting community priority. These actions will then be integrated into the City's annual service planning.

Focus Areas

There are five Focus Areas in the *SafeCity Plan 2021-2025* that capture the major themes that our work will be structured around over the coming years. See Figure 1.

Objectives

There are several objectives within each Focus Area, which articulate our approach and priorities.

Actions

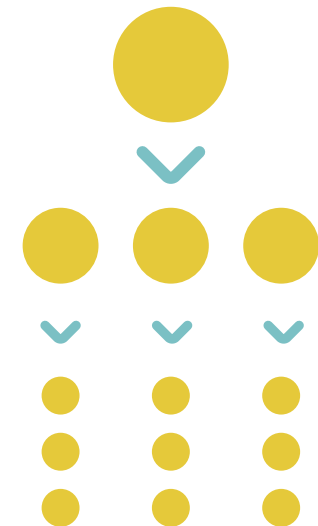Corresponding with each objective is a series of high level actions that specify what we will do.

Figure 1. Creating a Safe City

SAFE PLACES

SEEING & RESPONDING

PREPARED COMMUNITY

HEALTHY HEADSPACE

ENGAGED COMMUNITY

SAFE CITY

Background

The City of Perth's role in Community Safety

As the capital city, and one of the first points of contact interstate and overseas visitors have with Western Australia, we need to ensure we are welcoming and safe for all. We want people to remember our city for all the right reasons, to feel safe and comfortable to linger, return regularly and encourage others to do the same.

Where have we come from?

Making our city safer is an ongoing challenge for the whole community but one where we have made good inroads.

Over the past four years we achieved some notable successes across our previous focal areas. The following examples demonstrate our progress so far.

The promotion of safer spaces was a key focus with the creation and distribution of our Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) informed *Creating Safer Spaces guide and Lighting Guidelines*.

We conducted Crowded Places Security Audits on 23 of our most vulnerable spaces and produced reports on the outcomes, including hostile vehicle management.

Our street lighting was audited and upgrades prioritised.

The City implemented the *Graffiti Management Plan 2016–2020*, which included establishing a Graffiti Working Group.

Social aspects of safer spaces were managed by increasing diversity of the night-time economy through:

- a variety in business types, events and visitors;
- increased event approvals and sponsorship; and

- increased business development and support grants and approvals.

The City developed initiatives in safety education and awareness through social media platforms, SafeCity Rangers and City After Dark tours and videos. The City also improved business and neighbourhood engagement and development through community organisations, in store visits and safety forums.

The City spends $5 Million annually on surveillance infrastructure and operations. The CityWatch Surveillance Centre operates and monitors over 600 CCTV cameras around the clock and throughout the year. Police work alongside the City of Perth officers to respond to issues when they occur.

The City formalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with WAPF, enhanced data collection, trialled Smart City analytics and expanded the CCTV network to cover East Perth and West Perth. To manage hotspots, the City introduced mobile CCTV trailers, prepared Place Based Action Pans and ran joint operations with the WAPF, leading to localised reductions in crime and antisocial behaviour.

The *Welcome to Our City* video series in 2019 highlighted the roles various staff have in contributing to our City and making it safe.

The City worked with the WAPF, Crime Stoppers and other service providers to promote a one-stop service to the public, to report issues and share information. The City also had greater visibility on the streets by rebranding our SafeCity Ranger uniforms and vehicles, integrating SafeCity Ranger bike and foot patrols with the WAPF and introducing SafeCity Patrols in our neighbourhoods.

Homelessness in the city was a key focus which resulted in the *Interim Homelessness Action Plan* and collaboration between State and Local Governments, and community-based agencies. The City saw greater coordination of services around housing, supplier accreditation and the Homelessness Connect event. The Moore Street hub was introduced to provide a one-stop service location and the City funded expansion of its Homeless Support team.

The City chaired regular Perth City Accord meetings and the Street Chaplains targeted patrols in the central city and Northbridge.

City of Perth

Creating Safer Spaces:
Design guidelines to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour
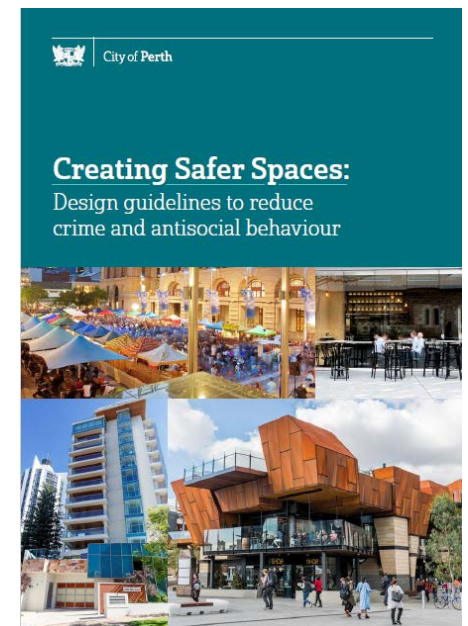
There were improvements in the management of licensed and alcohol-free events, and the development of relationships with peak bodies and State Government.

The City has also made significant improvements to our documents, plans, training and in building relationships around Emergency Management. This has resulted in the City meeting *Emergency Management Act 1995* compliance.

The City introduced industry firsts with the production of the eMERGE Emergency Management platform, a Temporary Memorial Plan, and community and business education resources entitled *Are You Prepared Perth?* The 2017 Skyworks plane crash, 2019 backpacker hostel fire, 2019 heatwave and the COVID-19 pandemic have all informed our emergency management systems and encouraged continual review and improvements.

The City received positive domestic and international feedback on the *Safe City Plan 2016–2020* and the City will build on this in the new Plan.

In the last six months, actions to address antisocial behaviour have received additional attention and will require greater emphasis in this Plan. Based on community feedback and concerns, we are focusing on the elements that contribute to antisocial behaviour rather than the behaviour itself. Homelessness will have its own planning documents and these will complement the SafeCity Plan, linking with the City's neighbourhood approach.

Trends

Public commentary, community feedback, business engagement and negative media reporting all indicate wide concern around crime and safety issues in the city.

The *Stakeholder Perceptions Study 2018* indicates only 56 per cent of respondents (929 people) were satisfied or very satisfied with the city as "A safe place to live and move around in".[2] This was identified as an issue and one that needed to be addressed as a priority in the short term.

The *Perth Safe City Research Report 2017* indicated 83 per cent of respondents (up from 82 per cent in 2014) saw Perth as safe/very safe during the daytime. This compared to 38 per cent (up from 36 per cent in 2014) in the evening[3].

The difference between day and evening safety perceptions is not surprising as people generally feel safer in the day time, however the difference is large and indicates more action on safety is required after dark.

Current Situation

WAPF Police data (Figure 2) indicates rising trends for crimes against property and people across the four-year period. The large increase in personal crime in summer 2019/20 may be the result of additional police resources during WAPF Operation Heat Shield, with increased police presence and the ability to attend and record incidents through an increase in operational hours in the city.

CityWatch Surveillance Centre year to date data (including CCTV observations, reports from City staff and the public) in Figure 3 shows a year-on-year increase in incidents. This may be due to the increased number of CCTV cameras, increased number of Police during targeted operations, a change in behaviour on the streets and/or an increase in community reporting.

The breakdown of CCTV incidents in Figure 4 shows approximately one third of observations relate to disorder which includes people affected by alcohol and other drugs, mental health issues and aggressive behaviour, which may not result in offences recorded by police.

2020 Police and Citywatch data both show the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown between March and June 2020, which resulted in an unusual decline in crime and safety statistics. This is noticeable in the property crime drop which may be the result of people and vehicles staying at home and closed retail businesses.

The Police Commissioner also credits WA's closed border with reducing the supply of methamphetamine by half between July and September 2020. This resulted in falls of 73 per cent in house break-ins and 60 per cent in stealing from cars across WA, in comparison to the same period in 2019.[4]

Figure 2. Police Crime Offenses by Years

Property crime - Police Crime Offences
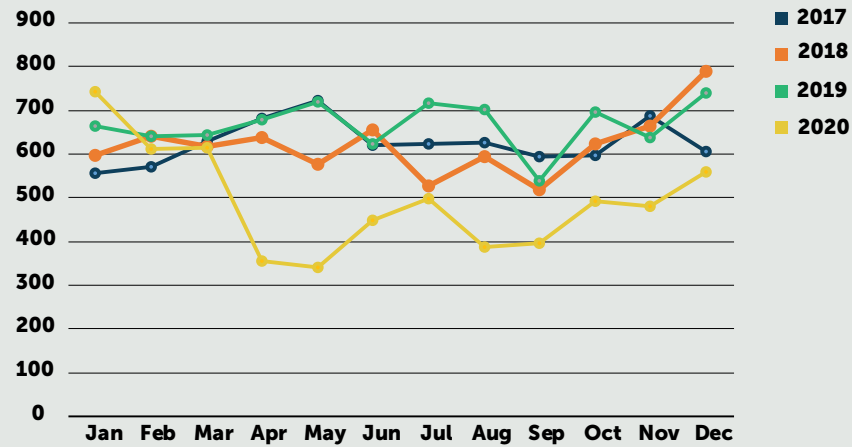
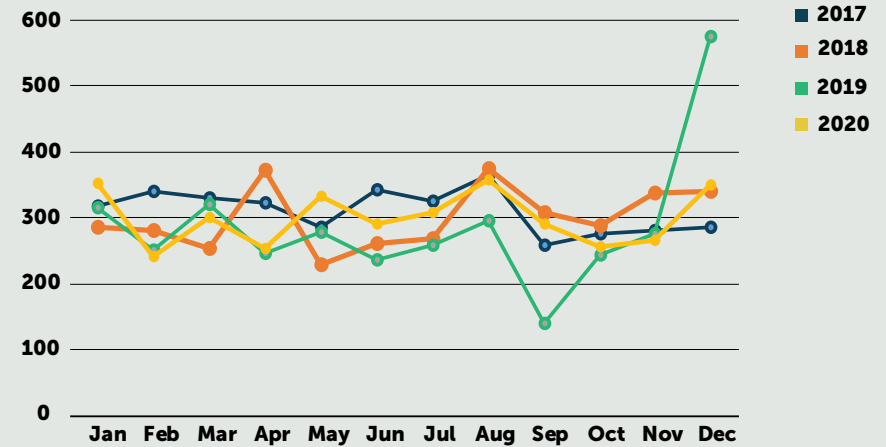
Personal crime - Police Crime Offences

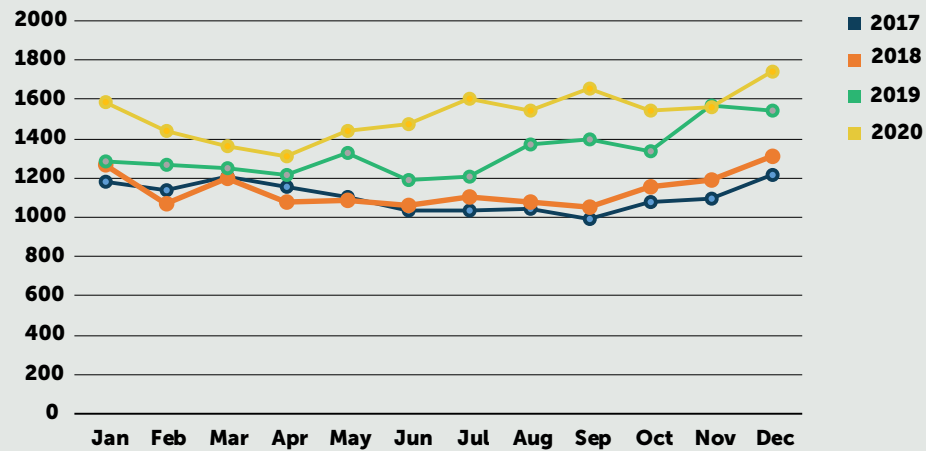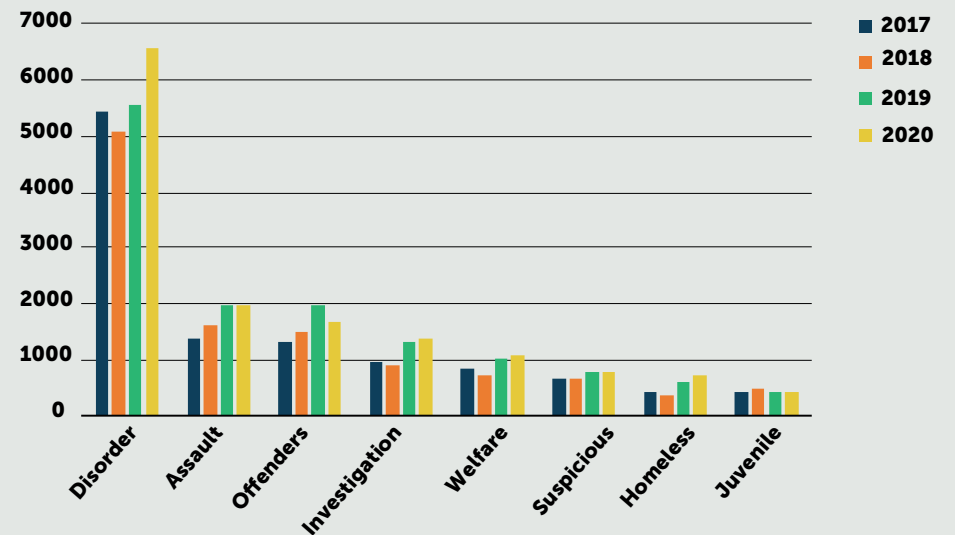## Figure 3 CCTV Incidents by Years

## Figure 4 Top 8 CCTV Incidents by Years

Our City

The city sits along the banks of the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) and has a rich history as the traditional lands of the Whadjuk Nyoongar People. The Nyoongar nation have been the traditional custodians of the south west of Western Australia for at least 45,000 years. The geographical features and natural environment that was fundamental to Nyoongar culture and sustenance, has been substantially transformed by the development of Perth city over the last 200 years.

Today the City of Perth is the representative Local Government for the six neighborhoods of Central, East and West Perth; Claisebrook; Northbridge and Nedlands/Crawley.

The City of Perth is the business, transport, cultural and entertainment hub of the metropolitan area. As the home of the State Government and its key departments, the city features diverse economic activity including business administration, finance, retail, health and education. In addition, it has large evening entertainment and event areas, tourism and public spaces including Kings Park, Elizabeth Quay and the Swan River, and a distinctive urban character.

Throughout the City, almost $5 Billion worth of construction projects are in the pipeline. Key projects such as the Carillion redevelopment, Brookfield Development, Elizabeth Quay (EQ) Buildings, Chevron Tower and the Edith Cowan University (ECU) Campus are either approved and currently on site or pending commencement. New precincts being developed by the State at EQ, Perth Bus Port/Yagan Square and the Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) grounds redevelopment, plus pedestrian and cycle links to the new Optus Stadium have added to the unprecedented growth occurring in our city.

The City of Perth has a small residential population of 28,832. However, as the capital city of Western Australia and the hub of the metropolitan transport system, the daytime population swells to an estimated 205,000. This collection of workers, travellers, students, community and government service users, and people at leisure contribute to the city buzz which brings both positive and negative impacts for the community and city safety.
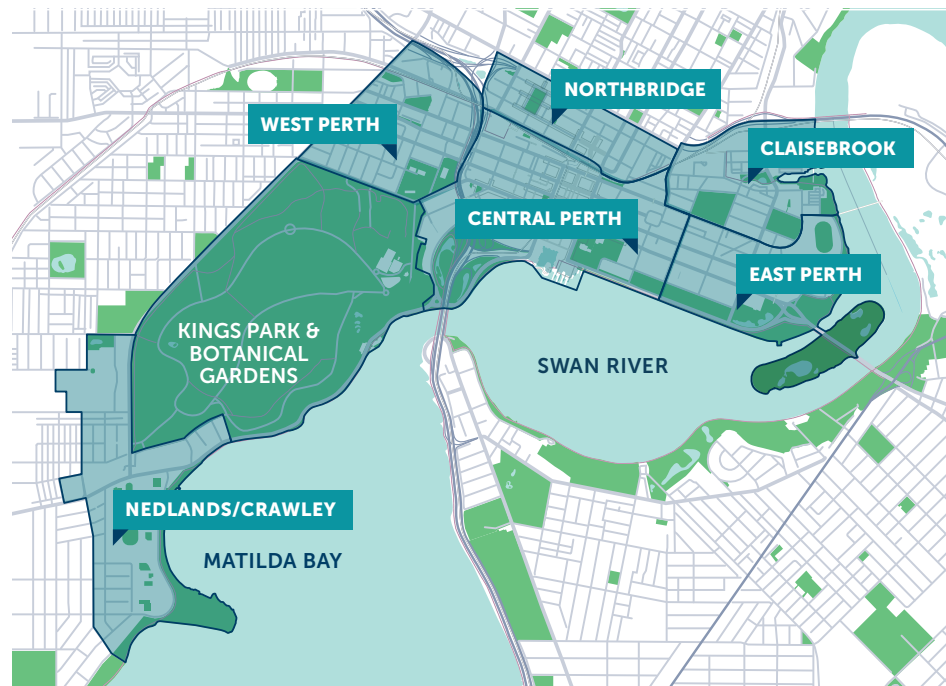
Guiding principles

To achieve a safe community, we will align with the *National Crime Prevention Framework*, which is consistent with the principles outlined in the *2002 UN Action to Promote Effective Crime Prevention*.[5]

These reinforce the need for cooperation and partnership between government organisations, civil society and the business sector.

We will use the internationally recognised *Safe Community Model* which is an evidence-based, best practice model for addressing community safety issues at the local level.[6]

The underlying philosophy behind the framework is to prevent injuries in all areas, for all ages, in all environments and situations, invoking government, non-government and community sector support. Essential themes of the model are to reduce injury and promote safety and well-being for all citizens in a community.

The concept is characterised by the following core attributes:

1. Community leadership and participation

2. Program reach

3. Priority setting

4. Data analysis

5. Program evaluation

6. Communication and networking

While we implement this model, we will seek Pan Pacific Safe Community Accreditation, so we reach an international standard.

We will also address other considerations including:

- developing actions that consider legislation and policies of the City of Perth, State and Federal Governments;

- considering diverse community needs when developing facilities, infrastructure and activities in the city; and

- seeking positive media promotion across all five focus areas.

Focus areas for delivery

The five focus areas and objectives are a direct result of community consultation.

Research of good practice, crime and safety data, and recommendations from industry bodies (such as the Western Australian Local Government Association, WA Police Force and the Australian Institute of Criminology) have also been used to develop actions to achieve our objectives.

Although some of the objectives and actions fall outside of the City of Perth's remit, we have looked at this Plan with a wider gaze. It is not just about what the City can deliver, but also what the City can advocate for, sponsor, support or collaborate on. As a result, we have a well-informed, community-oriented Plan.

In targeting these areas, the City will collaborate with government and non-government agencies and the community to ensure **residents, workers and visitors identify Perth as a safe city.**

This will be monitored closely to measure perceptions of safety.

The actions employed to achieve the Plan objectives will be determined and evaluated against the social and political climate at the time. Annual reviews will be evidence-driven to ensure we are addressing the issues with effective solutions.

Table 1. Focus Areas

Focus Areas	Objectives		High Level Actions	
1. Safe Places	1.1	Reduce safety hazards and opportunities for crime through design and planning.	1.1.1	Review and manage public places based on good practice and innovative technology.
			1.1.2	Create environments that reduce safety hazards and opportunities for criminal activity.
	1.2	Increase community facilities and services.	1.2.1	Support shelter and accommodation for street present people and those in crisis.
			1.2.2	Support additional transport services and options at night.
			1.2.3	Support community facilities and spaces where people can safely interact.
	1.3	Increase activity in the city through a more diversified economy and community activation.	1.3.1.	Support a diversity of business types to operate in each city neighbourhood.
			1.3.2	Encourage activation of city spaces by cultural organisations, businesses and the community in a manner that meets neighbourhood needs.

Focus Areas	Objectives		High Level Actions	
2. Seeing and Responding	2.1	Increase the effectiveness of available resources to monitor and respond to safety and crime issues.	2.1.1	Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to develop and implement local area action plans for hotspots.
			2.1.2	Install and monitor CCTV cameras based on data and demonstrated need.
			2.1.3	Develop human resource capability, effectiveness and capacity to respond appropriately to safety and crime issues.
	2.2	Increase reporting and response to safety and crime issues.	2.2.1	Share intelligence and data regularly between the City, WAPF and other agencies.
			2.2.2	Utilise intelligence to inform proactive practice by City staff and other agencies.
			2.2.3	Review opportunities to promote safety contact details and mechanisms.
	2.3	Increase the presence and profile of safety and support personnel on the streets.	2.3.1	Deploy adequate resources to areas and at times of highest need.
			2.3.2	Advocate for additional police resources in hot spots.
			2.3.3	Provide higher visibility of safety personnel and vehicles.

Focus Areas	Objectives		High Level Actions	
3. Engaged Community	3.1	Increase community engagement in safety initiatives.	3.1.1	Educate and engage the community in crime prevention and safety initiatives to reduce risk.
			3.1.2	Promote and encourage participation in community safety initiatives.
			3.1.3	Promote community reporting of issues to the appropriate response agency as they occur.
			3.1.4	Work with agencies to prepare the community for emergencies and increase resilience.
	3.2	Increase knowledge of the causes and needs of people who behave in an antisocial manner in the City of Perth.	3.2.1	Engage with people who have lived experience to better understand issues and needs relating to antisocial behaviour.
	3.3	Reduce the incidence of antisocial behaviour.	3.3.1	Work collaboratively with the community and agencies to develop programs and facilities to engage people in a positive way.
			3.3.2	Develop and implement methods to manage and reduce antisocial incidents.
	3.4	Increase the response of agencies to antisocial behaviour when it occurs.	3.4.1	Support community agencies in on-street engagement.

Focus Areas	Objectives		High Level Actions	
4. Healthy Headspace	4.1	Reduce the availability of illicit drugs and psychoactive substances on the street.	4.1.1	Work with agencies and the community to disrupt the supply and distribution of illicit drugs and psychoactive substances.
	4.2	Increase cross agency response to people affected by drugs, alcohol and mental health issues in the inner city.	4.2.1	Establish a collaborative action group with neighbouring local governments to address alcohol and drug issues.
			4.2.2	Advocate for additional services for people in need.
	4.3	Reduce the negative impact that can result from the use of drugs, alcohol and/or mental health issues.	4.3.1	Work with community agencies to provide safe places and programs for people affected by alcohol, drugs and mental health issues to support recovery.
			4.3.2	Collaborate with alcohol and other drugs and mental health agencies to deliver education and improve knowledge and skills to front line workers and the community.
			4.3.3	Support and promote activities in the City of Perth that promote healthy lifestyle.
5. Prepared Community	5.1	Ensure the City's emergency management arrangements are up to date, achieve best practice and meet legal requirements.	5.1.1	Review and update emergency arrangements on a regular basis and post event.
	5.2	Increase emergency preparation, response and recovery knowledge and skills of City of Perth staff and Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC).	5.2.1	Conduct desktop and training exercises for LEMC and City of Perth staff members.
	5.3	Minimise harm to people and property in emergency situations in the City of Perth.	5.3.1	Support and promote citywide community resilience before, during and after an emergency or crisis situation.
			5.3.2	Identify and support delivery of services to meet local needs in response to an emergency event.

We aspire to have a community that minimise risks and is resilient, ready to respond and recover should emergencies occur.

Safe Places

Safety is linked to:

- physical environments that reduce risk; and
- communities that are economically and socially supportive.

We want to build and facilitate a city which is safe 24 hours a day. One where people feel they can participate in work, leisure, education and travel activities at any time.

"Sustainable communities are places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive; well planned, built and run; offer equality of opportunity and good services for all."[7]

OBJECTIVE 1

Reduce safety hazards and opportunities for crime through design and planning

The built environment when based on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles is the basis of a city that supports diverse business and community activity day and night. This includes lighting and passive (eyes on the street) and active (CCTV) surveillance. Safer design also supports access and way-finding and encourages people to linger.

The City will continue to upgrade lighting to better support pedestrian activity, not just vehicles, minimise the impact of vegetation on lights and lines of sight, and modify public spaces where antisocial behaviour occurs. City policies guide design and development approvals of public and private spaces, to minimise safety risks and provide amenity for users.

Research supports inclusive spaces that meet community needs, including those that consider age, ability and cultural diversity resulting in engagement and belonging. [8,9,10,11]

In designing and creating these spaces, the inclusion of Smart Technology will enable the City to monitor spaces and better respond. This includes lighting that can be adjusted to support activity type and time of night, or in itself be entertainment. Sensors can count and monitor activity levels and the installation of CCTV and speakers in public spaces will support safety and warn the community of emergency events and response requirements.

OBJECTIVE 2

Increase community facilities and services

Facilities that enable people to participate in a social environment that is welcoming and safe can strengthen the community and encourage a greater sense of safety.

The impact of COVID-19 on the community and the need for community participation has reinforced the need for outdoor and casual recreation facilities such as parks, playgrounds and exercise equipment.

Spaces and services for the community that are accessible and affordable encourage participation and activation on and off the street. These include services and facilities for sport and recreation, adult education and culture.

Affordable late-night public transport also enables people on low incomes or those without private vehicles to access work, social and leisure opportunities.

Community facilities and services such as night shelters, student accommodation and crisis services are also required within the city to support people who are at risk or in crisis situations.

OBJECTIVE 3

Increase activity in the city through a more diversified economy and community activation

The City's experience with COVID-19 has demonstrated the impact economic and community activity has on our sense of safety. Whilst some welcome empty streets, research indicates the lack of people and passing traffic makes them feel uncomfortable and vulnerable.[12]

The *Fringe World Impact Report 2020* showed increased activity and vibrancy resulted in 68 per cent of respondents agreeing that Fringe World contributed to them feeling safer in Northbridge and the Perth City centre.[13]

In addition to a large day time workforce and other visitors, our city has a night workforce which not only serves people at leisure such as in entertainment venues, but also those who work in construction, hospital and health care, accommodation, transport, delivery and cleaning services. Technology is also changing how, where and when we work which will also encourage a more diversified pattern of activity 24/7 and across locations.

As we further engage and support our neighbourhoods, the City will encourage and support creativity in business, activation and the community to deliver and achieve local activity and engagement.
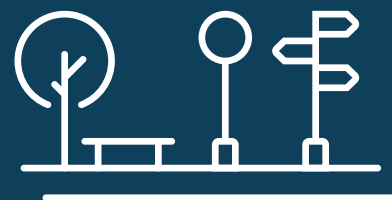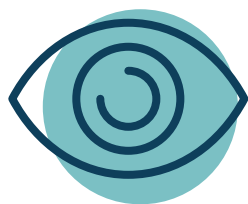
Seeing and Responding

The City has more than 25 years experience managing and monitoring CCTV through the CityWatch Surveillance Centre.

As well as active surveillance, it is essential that the whole community is involved in observing what is happening around them. This includes the City of Perth's staff, WA Police Force, other safety agencies and most importantly the wider community. We aspire to have a city community that is engaged with its spaces and responds appropriately if safety and crime issues are observed.

Increase the effectiveness of available resources to monitor and respond to safety and crime issues

Evidence suggests an overall reduction in crime when focused deterrence strategies are used.[13] Therefore, efforts to prevent crimes occurring in hot spots will be targeted by front-line officers and CCTV monitoring.

The City will continue to provide and monitor permanent and mobile CCTV cameras in key areas. By working with the WA Police Force we will ensure this important resource is used effectively. CCTV can both deter crime and support prosecution and follow up if a crime occurs. Regular evaluation and review of service delivery will support effective management of both electronic surveillance and human resources at street level with our SafeCity Rangers.

Research by Homel states "that for crime prevention to be effective and efficient, it needs to be designed and managed with a sophistication and maturity of vision that sees it planned and delivered in a systematic and integrated fashion. International research indicates that crime prevention is optimally effective when it is embraced as an activity in its own right, with its own goals and objectives. These require high level sustained commitment and appropriate and adequate resourcing".[15]

Each city neighbourhood is different and safety hot spots emerge for a variety of reasons. When issues occur regularly and become a problem, we will work with the community and other agencies to analyse the cause and develop a Place Based Action Plan to deliver an appropriate response.

OBJECTIVE 2

Increase reporting and response to safety and crime issues

Collaboration will be key to maximising appropriate response to safety and crime issues.

Engagement by SafeCity Rangers, RooForce and WA Police with the public, will build better understanding of antisocial issues, crime and safety and what response the public can expect to individual issues.

Published research[16,17] and anecdotal evidence indicates that a lack of response to a similar incident will discourage future reporting of similar situations. Cultural and personal history can also influence reporting and engagement with authorities. Therefore, we will work with our community to deliver engagement and education in appropriate ways. This will encourage the public to report issues to the appropriate agency when they occur.

OBJECTIVE 3

Increase the presence and profile of safety and support personnel on the streets

Our community wants to see more police and safety personnel on the streets, at times and locations where the greatest number of issues occur. Reviews of the best evidence show visible police patrols can reduce crime, but only if it is specifically targeted to crime hotspots (high crime locations).[18, 19]

There is also robust evidence to suggest that targeted patrols, particularly targeted foot patrols, can have a positive impact on public perceptions.[20] While we don't expect that police or City resources will fully meet community expectations, we will use data and information to deploy resources at times and locations of greatest need and continue to advocate for additional police in the city.

Engaged Community

The City needs its community to engage and participate. Failure to understand the needs of people of all ages, abilities, cultures and interests can result in a lack of engagement, social issues, increased antisocial behaviour and crime.

The City seeks to understand the social and environmental causes of antisocial behaviour to develop effective and community wide responses.

OBJECTIVE 1

Increase community engagement in safety initiatives

Research by the Swedish Ministry of Justice identifies the importance of making use of citizen involvement in crime prevention efforts, in collaboration with public authorities.[20] This will be achieved in Perth through the External Stakeholder Working Group and neighbourhood and business groups. In addition, the City will collaborate with agencies including the WA Police Force, Crime Stoppers, Neighbourhood Watch and the Red Cross in education and promotional activities to build knowledge, skills and actions.

OBJECTIVE 2

Increase knowledge of the causes and needs of people who behave in an antisocial manner in the City of Perth

For many years we have observed antisocial behaviour by different groups of people, including some youth, without fully understanding who they are, where they live and the underlying issues that lead these groups to act in antisocial ways in our city.

The City will work with community organisations to engage with different groups in culturally appropriate ways and learn about their issues and needs. Delivery of a pilot program of recreation activities for youth is the vehicle to better understand their needs. We will take them on the journey with us to develop activities and services that meet their needs in the city and within their own communities.

Engagement with street present people will be achieved through collaboration with outreach workers and at facilities and locations such at the Moore St Hub.

Research by Sutton, Cherney & White tells us that prevention strategies should focus on addressing the problems experienced by disaffected community members (e.g. young people, immigrants, unemployed etc) by striving to integrate them into their local communities thereby reducing the potential risk of them participating in crime.[22]

OBJECTIVE 3

Reduce the incidence of antisocial behaviour

Positive engagement of all members of the community in the city can help to reduce antisocial behaviour. Some young people act in inappropriate ways as they experience social challenges at home, are bored, lack support and appropriate role models, or feel marginalised.

Provision of activities, support services and facilities can help reduce this. The specific knowledge obtained through engagement will be used to support the development of programs and facilities to minimise antisocial behaviour.

OBJECTIVE 4

Increase the response of agencies to antisocial behaviour when it occurs

There is good evidence that crime rates increase when sites are not cared for and people feel safer in well maintained spaces.[23]

Therefore, we will continue to keep our spaces clean, remove graffiti and repair damaged facilities.

Community promotion of services who can respond to such incidents including Goodbye Graffiti, CityWatch Surveillance Centre, Crime Stoppers and Police, is important for encouraging community participation. Evidence supports the value of community agencies responding to antisocial and safety issues [24,25,26]. Organisations such as RooForce, Street Chaplains and Youth Beat can free up Police resources and provide a mediation role. The City will provide support and collaborate with these and other groups to offer services.

Engagement of Police with offenders or people behaving in socially unacceptable ways can de-escalate behaviour that may develop into more serious offences. Verbal warnings and Police Move on Notices can remove people from specific areas. Likewise, development and implementation of management procedures at public facilities such as the library or community centres will send clear messages regarding acceptable behaviour and increase feelings of safety among users.

Healthy Headspace

Whilst some people will experience issues with substance abuse and mental health issues, we seek a city that minimises the negative safety issues and harm that can occur to them, the people around them and the environment they are in.

A healthy head space is the basis for preventing and managing the negative impact of drugs and alcohol. There have been multiple studies that show a correlation between substance use disorders and mental illness. Studies also show the elevated risk of someone with mental disorders also developing substance use disorders.[27]

Substance abuse can be linked to violence, antisocial behaviour and crime. People affected by drugs, alcohol and/or mental health issues can be both the victim and perpetrator of crime. Managing and controlling drug availability on the streets, ongoing management of licensed venues and support services for people who are affected by substances, will work toward improving the situation for all concerned.

OBJECTIVE 1

Reduce the availability of illicit drugs and psychoactive substances on the street

The Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) study of detainees at East Perth Watch House published in 2018 demonstrated the positive association between substance use and other criminal activities. It indicated that of those who provided urine samples, 79 per cent tested positive for at least one drug type (up from 77 per cent in 2015) and 43 per cent to more than one drug type. Fifty-five per cent tested positive for cannabis (up from 49 per cent in 2015) and 64 per cent to amphetamine (up from 49 per cent in 2015). This is the highest rate of amphetamine use recorded for Perth since the DUMA program commenced in 1999. Detainees attributed 50 per cent of property offences and 43 per cent of violence were related to drugs or alcohol.[28]

The effects of synthetic cannabis has led to an obvious change in user behaviour and problems in our streets. In addition, other drug use is obvious in some locations.

We will encourage the community to report drug activity when it occurs and to support appropriate response by authorities.

OBJECTIVE 2

Increase cross agency response to people affected by drugs, alcohol and mental health issues in the inner city

While the city does not have a direct role in delivery of services for people negatively impacted, it will support responses to the issues.

Drugs, alcohol and mental health issues are not unique to the City of Perth. We will work with neighbouring local governments and appropriate agencies to collectively respond and advocate for additional services for those in need, including links to long term housing and support if required.

A harm minimisation approach recognises that drug use carries substantial risks, and that drug-users require a range of supports to progressively reduce harm to themselves and the community.

The three pillars of harm minimisation are demand reduction, supply reduction and harm reduction. Strategies to prevent and minimise alcohol, tobacco and other drug problems should be balanced across the three pillars.[29]

The SafeCity Plan will align with State and Federal direction such as the *National Drug Strategy 2017-2026* which states "Alcohol, tobacco and other drug problems are also associated with social and health determinants, such as discrimination, unemployment, homelessness, poverty and family breakdown."

OBJECTIVE 3

Reduce the negative impact that can result from the use of drugs, alcohol and/or mental health issues

Creation of supportive environments for the whole community including those who are not in a healthy headspace, plays an important role in better outcomes for all.[30]

Engagement by the community with people with mental illness or who are affected by drugs or alcohol can also play a significant role in reducing negative response or increasing issues.[31,32]

The City will educate and promote skill development in front line staff to improve engagement outcomes.

Support for prevention strategies is also essential in slowing the number of people who experience mental health issues and substance usage. As the impact of COVID-19 continues to be experienced in the community, the need for positive mental health activities and services is being recognised and acted upon.

Prepared Community

Emergencies have been front of mind in recent times. With climate, social and environmental change, the frequency and impact of emergencies and extreme events is likely to increase. The Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience identified the need to develop innovative ways to support the community prevent, prepare, respond and recover from the impact of emergencies.

The City's key role is managing community recovery. This process commences long before an event occurs with prevention and preparation activities including education of City staff and the community.

We aim to have a community that minimise risks and is resilient, ready to respond and recover should emergencies occur.

OBJECTIVE 1

Ensure the City's emergency management arrangements are up to date, achieve best practice and meet legal requirements.

While the City of Perth's emergency response plans have been updated, work is ongoing. Lessons from COVID-19 have identified the need for City of Perth's actions to be reconsidered and further improved. This has emphasised the need for long-term response management across the city and state, which may occur simultaneously with other events.

Through ongoing collaboration with our Local, District and State Emergency Management Committees we will share resources such as our eMERGE emergency management portal. We will also improve communication through Memorandums Of Understanding (MOUs).

OBJECTIVE 2

Increase emergency preparation, response and recovery knowledge and skills of City of Perth staff and the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC).

The lessons we learn from our experiences, and that of agencies in other locations, will be used to continuously improve our response and recovery. Quarterly meetings and training exercises for the LEMC will build working relationships, knowledge and skills between staff from the City, government and support agencies.

Staff from across the City of Perth will continue to be trained and integrate emergency management into their jobs, which will facilitate their redeployment if required in response to and recovery from events.

OBJECTIVE 3

Minimise harm to people and property in emergency situations in the City of Perth.

After events, we will work closely with businesses and residents to ensure that day to day operations are normalised as quickly as possible. We will also work with the community to develop and coordinate the delivery of Recovery Plans.

The City will activate the Lord Mayor's Distress Fund, where necessary, to financially assist people effected by a major emergency event.

Organisational Context

The SafeCity Plan 2021-2025 has a bold goal: **Residents, workers and visitors identify Perth as a safe city.**

The City of Perth's role is to recognise, promote and enhance the social, environmental, economic and cultural setting of the City for he community, both now and into the future

Liveable

A community that is safe, socially cohesive, inclusive and activated.

Sustainable

A healthy environment, with social and economic systems in balance.

Prosperous

A successful, flourishing and thriving City.

Strategic Pillars

In July 2021, Council adopted three strategic pillars to drive the City's strategic vision and identify the City 's objectives for the future, which are:

'Liveable' – a community that is safe, socially cohesive, inclusive and activated

'Sustainable' – a healthy environment, with social and economic systems in balance

'Prosperous' - a successful, flourishing and thriving City.

The City of Perth leadership aims to genuinely partner with our stakeholders to build a sense of vibrancy, celebrate and develop our diverse cultural experiences as well as supporting economic growth to enable Perth to continue to compete the world stage as one of the great liveable cities.

The SafeCity Plan is an Informing Plan that will identify and shape priorities, projects, programs and service delivery to meet the outcomes of the three strategic pillars and our principles.

Liveable
Vibrant and activated communities help to build and enhance their own safety and security

Sustainable
Cohesive and connected communities contribute to a resilient and long-lasting safety and security culture

Prosperous
A safe city will flourish, attracting investment and promoting growth in the residential, retail, commercial and tourism sectors

Delivery

The City's annual budget is based on the projected costing of year one of the Corporate Business Plan, with opportunity to review during the mid-year budget review processes.

The objectives of this SafeCity Plan will guide individual Service Unit Plans in which action commitments are prioritised, resources allocated, and partnerships and responsibilities identified. Service Unit Plans are reviewed annually in line with the City's Annual Budget.

Table 2 shows the role and influence of external agencies in addition to the City of Perth in providing a safe city.
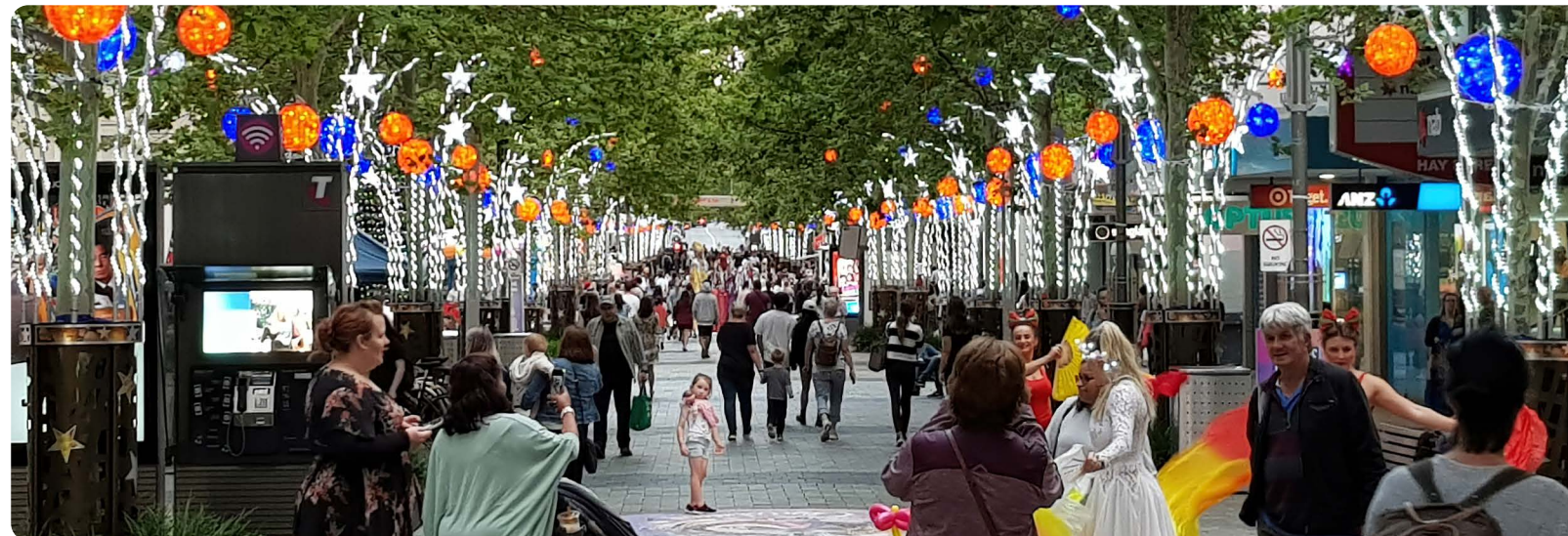
Table 2. Organisation roles in city safety

Table 2 shows the role and influence of external agencies in addition to the City of Perth in providing a safe city.

Organisation / Agency	Role and influence in the City of Perth	Relevant Strategies and plans
City of Perth	The City is responsible for the planning and delivery of services to ratepayers, residents and the general public within the city boundaries. This includes operation and management of CCTV cameras in the public domain; preparation and co-ordination of plans; liaison with government and community agencies; and advocacy.	• *SafeCity Plan 2021-2025* • *Corporate Business Plan 2020 - 2024* • City of Perth Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA)
WA Police Force (WAPF)	WA Police Force are responsible for enforcement of law and order, play a critical role in crime prevention and are responsible for addressing criminal activity. Provision of resources, including funding, and support to address local crime and safety issues including graffiti.	• Neighbourhood Watch • *Graffiti Vandalism Strategy 2019 - 2021*
DevelopmentWA (DWA)	WA Government agency responsible for development and management of Elizabeth Quay, Perth City Link, Yagan Square and Riverside project areas. The City liaises with DWA on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design strategies and place management.	
State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)	Peak emergency management body in WA. Supports development of emergency management arrangements and District and Local Emergency Management committees.	• *State Emergency Management Plan December 2020* • State Hazard Plans (Westplans) • State Support Plans • *Public Transport Authority Strategic Plan 2017-2021*

Organisation / Agency	Role and influence in the City of Perth	Relevant Strategies and plans
Public Transport Authority (PTA)	WA Government agency responsible for the provision and operation of the public transport system with rail, bus and ferry operations in the city.	
Australian Government Attorney General's Departments	Programs and policies for Australian law, justice, national security and emergency management. Provision of funding for Safer Communities.	• Australian Government's Attorney-Generals Department - *Corporate Plan 2018-2022*
Mental Health Commission (MHC)	Provision of support services and programs to help people affected by mental health, drug and alcohol problems.	• *Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025* • *Methamphetamine Action Plan*
Not-for-Profit agencies (NFP)	Welfare, engagement, youth and indigenous service providers including the Salvation Army, Ruah, Anglicare, RooForce, Uniting WA, Shelter WA and Street Chaplains.	
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC)	Responsible for regulating and maintaining the integrity of racing, gaming and liquor activities for Western Australians. The DLGSC is responsible for issuing and reviewing licensed venues.	• *DLGSC Strategic Directions 2020-2023*

With a goal as bold as;
residents, workers and visitors identify Perth as a safe city,
this plan needs to show it's ready and able to achieve that. The targeted focal areas and objectives show that we are gearing toward making the goal a reality.

There are clear visions around actioning the causes, enablers and drivers of the issues the City is facing.

Partner agencies will be invited to participate in the SafeCity External Working Group. Meeting regularly they will support ongoing information sharing, identify and collaborate on actions to achieve our objectives.

The SafeCity Internal Stakeholder Working Group will engage staff from across the City to provide ongoing input into the SafeCity Plan and implementing its actions.

Likewise, staff from the Community Safety and Amenity Unit are actively engaged in supporting the development of the other strategic plans and working with the responsible business units to consult on linked issues. Annual reviews will be evidence-driven to ensure we are addressing the right issues at the right time with targeted, innovative, whole of community solutions.

This is a bold plan that is necessary in unique times. With the City, community and providers coming together, we can achieve a safer city in the life of this Plan.

Monitoring Progress

The SafeCity Plan will be monitored at different levels and points of time to determine delivery of actions (processes), achievement of objectives (impact of the actions) and progress towards achieving our goal (the outcome).

Progress will be included in the Annual Report and on the website.

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          GOAL
        ─────────
       OBJECTIVES
        ─────────
         ACTIONS
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1 Goal	Bi-annual community survey
16 Focus Area Objectives	Annual review
34 Actions	Quarterly monitoring

	Measure	**Frequency**
GOAL		
Residents, workers and visitors identify Perth as a safe city.	Community members' increased feeling of safety in the City of Perth	Bi-annual survey
OBJECTIVES		Annual review
1. Safe Places	Increased pedestrian counts in activity centres	
2. Seeing and Responding	Increased reporting of safety and crime issues	
3. Engaged Community	Increased participation by City of Perth community members with safety services and community agency activities	
4. Healthy Headspace	Collaborative Alcohol and Drug Group established and plan actioned	
5. Prepared Community	Emergency Management arrangements are up to date	
ACTIONS		
Projects and business as usual activities	Number of events and number of participants	Quarterly monitoring

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Reporting contacts

Life threatening emergencies
000

City of Perth general enquiries
94613333

Criminal activity - Police
13 11 44
Save 000 for emergencies

Graffiti reporting
goodbyegraffiti.wa.gov.au (24hr)

CCTV live incidents
9461 6611

Report crime anonymously
crimestopperswa.com.au
1800 333000

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