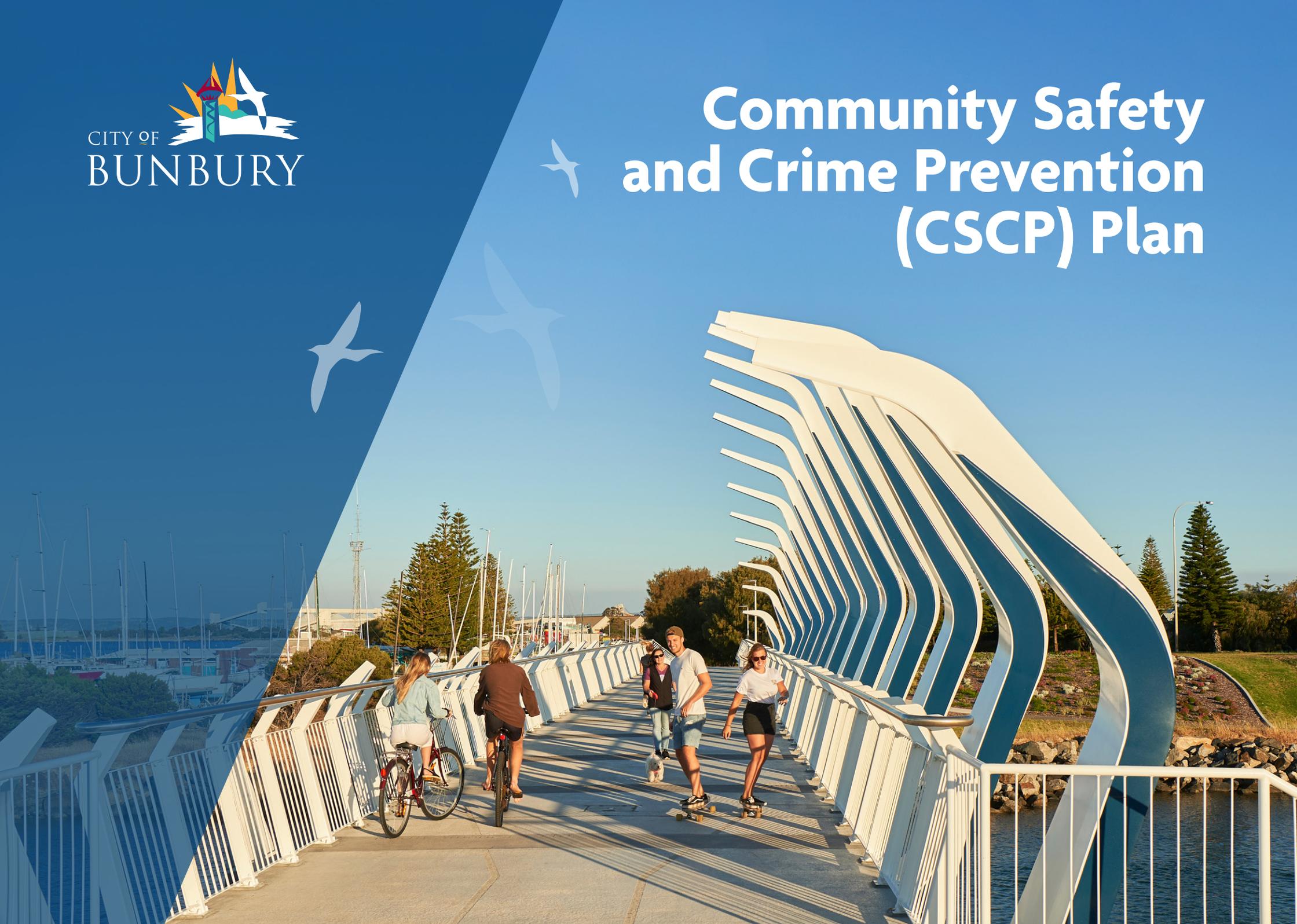




Community Safety and Crime Prevention (CSCP) Plan





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Bunbury acknowledges the traditional owners of the land, the Noongar Wardandi people and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Message from the Mayor



On behalf of the City of Bunbury Council and organisation, I am proud to present the City's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan.

We know through our MARKYT Community Scorecard that community safety and crime prevention is the number one priority for our residents and ratepayers, so I'm thrilled to be able to present this document and to get to work on the actions identified.

The City is committed to working towards a safe, healthy and connected community as identified through aspirations and objectives included in the City's Strategic Community and Corporate Business plans.

This Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan will put in place tangible actions that align to these aspirations and objectives.

While response to actual crime is primarily managed by police, the City has a role to play in community safety by collaborating, advocating, facilitating, providing services and facilities, funding opportunities and regulating compliance.

I'm proud that this plan has set out actions to help reach objectives across these areas and I look forward to the City continuing the work its doing and putting the plan into action.

This plan has been informed through independent research by criminologists with the process also involving community and stakeholder engagement to help identify our community's priority focus areas, concerns and perceptions.

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed in this space, in particular the working group which collaborated with the research team to shape the plan.

I encourage everyone to have a read through of this plan and to stay involved as we continue to make Bunbury brighter and safer for generations to come.

Introduction



In 2021, the City of Bunbury commissioned a MARKYT Community Scorecard survey to determine community priorities which would inform a review of the 10 year Strategic Community Plan. The survey revealed that the number one priority of residents and ratepayers was community safety and crime prevention. The City of Bunbury, places significant emphasis on the importance of community safety as a fundamental priority, evidenced in existing corporate documents which indicates 'a safe community' to be the number one desired outcome for the City. It is within this context that the Community Safety and Crime Prevention (CSCP) Plan 2023-2028 has been developed, providing support towards the realisation of the City's objectives regarding community safety.

The formulation of the CSCP Plan was informed by independent research undertaken by criminologists from Edith Cowan University. The academic team engaged with a broad range of local community members and stakeholders to discern areas of community concern, while also delving into published research to ascertain the most effective approaches to tackle identified concerns. Through a collaborative process involving the City's Community Safety Advisory Group (CSAG), a set of objectives and corresponding actions, detailed in this plan, were formulated. These objectives and actions complement and strengthen existing initiatives to build a safer environment for residents, workers, volunteers and visitors within the City of Bunbury.

Background Information

Emphasis on community safety and crime prevention stems from the adverse social and economic consequences that arise from criminal activity¹. Equally significant are *perceptions* surrounding crime and community safety. Often a fear of crime creates anxiety and concern due to a perceived threat as opposed to actual threat.

When people don't feel safe, it can have a profound impact on their well-being, quality of life, and their willingness to engage and participate in their communities. The City of Bunbury strives to foster an environment where every member of the community experiences a sense of safety and can participate fully in their daily activities.



¹Detotto, C., & Otranto, E. (2010). Does crime affect economic growth? *Kyklos*, 63(3), 330-345. [https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-6435.2010.00477.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-6435.2010.00477.x)

Johnston, D. W., Shields, M. A., & Suziedelyte, A. (2018). Victimization, well-being and compensation: Using panel data to estimate the costs of violent crime. *The Economic Journal*, 128(611), 1545-1569. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecoj.12478>

Sanandaji, T. (2020). The socioeconomic cost of crime. In T. Sanandaji (Ed.), *Mass Challenge: The socioeconomic impact of migration to a Scandinavian welfare state* (pp. 229-247). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-46808-8_16

Wickramasekera, N., Wright, J., Elsey, H., Murray, J., & Tubeuf, S. (2015). Cost of crime: A systematic review. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 43(3), 218-228. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2015.04.009>

Alignment with City of Bunbury strategies

The City's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan builds on the objectives of the City's Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032 and the City's Corporate Business Plan 2022-2026, to ensure alignment with the City's strategic direction. The below table demonstrates how the CSCP Plan links to existing strategies and plans.



Strategy/Plan	Aspiration/Objective	Desired Outcome	CSCP Plan Alignment
Strategic Community Plan	People - A safe, healthy and connected community	1. A safe community	All objectives
Strategic Community Plan	Place - An integrated, vibrant, and well-planned City	9. A city that is easy to get around safely and sustainably.	Objectives 1, 2 and 3
Corporate Business Plan	1. A safe community	1.1 Increase safety and crime prevention services.	Objective 1
Corporate Business Plan	1. A safe community	1.2 Modify the physical environment to improve community safety.	Objective 1, 2, 4, and 5

Existing initiatives

The City of Bunbury has a long-standing commitment to community safety, evident from the range of programs and initiatives that are already in place across the City.



Alcohol Accord

- The Bunbury Alcohol Accord facilitates communication between the City, Police and licensees to address alcohol related antisocial behaviour in the City Centre.



Graffiti removal

- The City of Bunbury is committed to dealing with graffiti and working with the community to remove it as soon as possible. Offensive graffiti is responded to immediately due to its capacity to increase the fear of crime.



Koolambidi Woola

- Bunbury's first ever youth precinct opened in July 2022.
- The goal is to create a safe space and a hub of activity to keep young people engaged and active in the community.



Rangers & Emergency Management

- The City of Bunbury Ranger and Emergency Management team liaise closely with Emergency and Community Services to provide support, and response to compliance issues that can impact community safety and wellbeing.



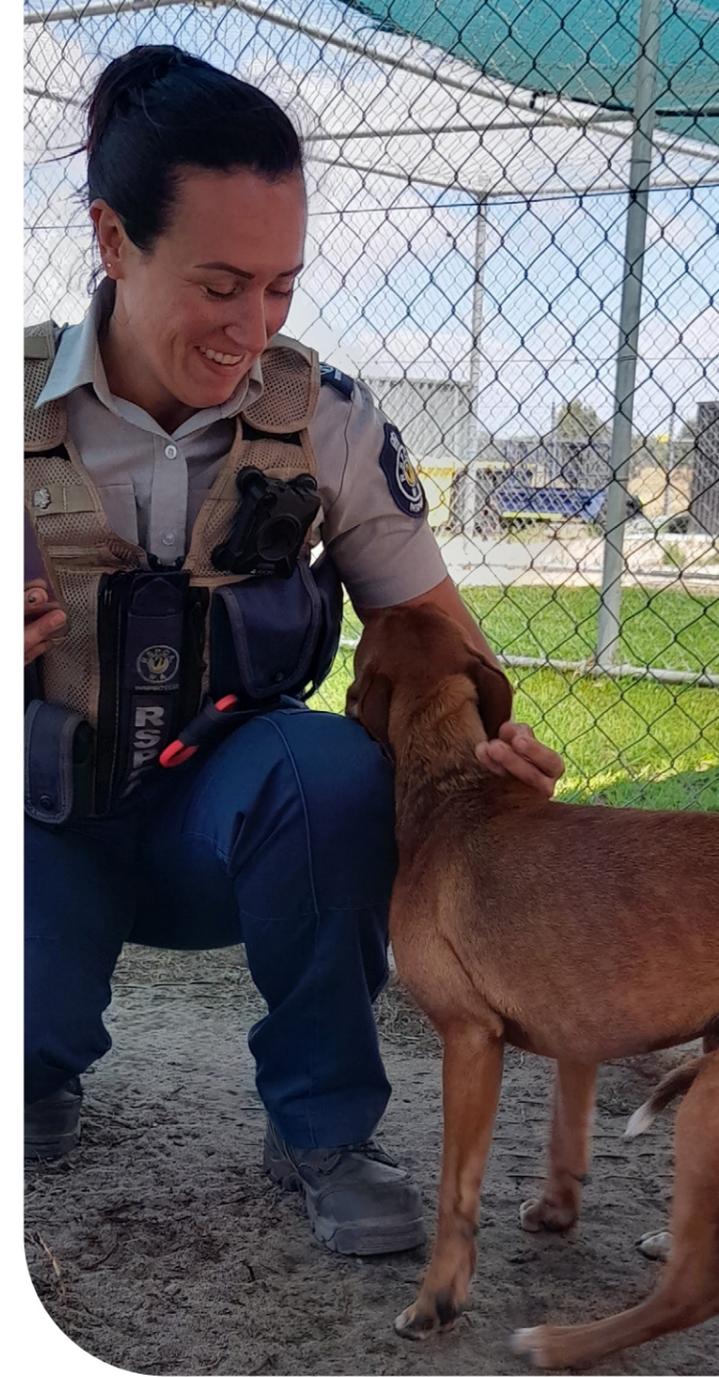
CCTV Coverage

- The City has more than 130 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras.
- CCTV data is provided to Bunbury Police in real time for monitoring and download including access to Licence Plate Recognition (LPR) footage.



Collaboration

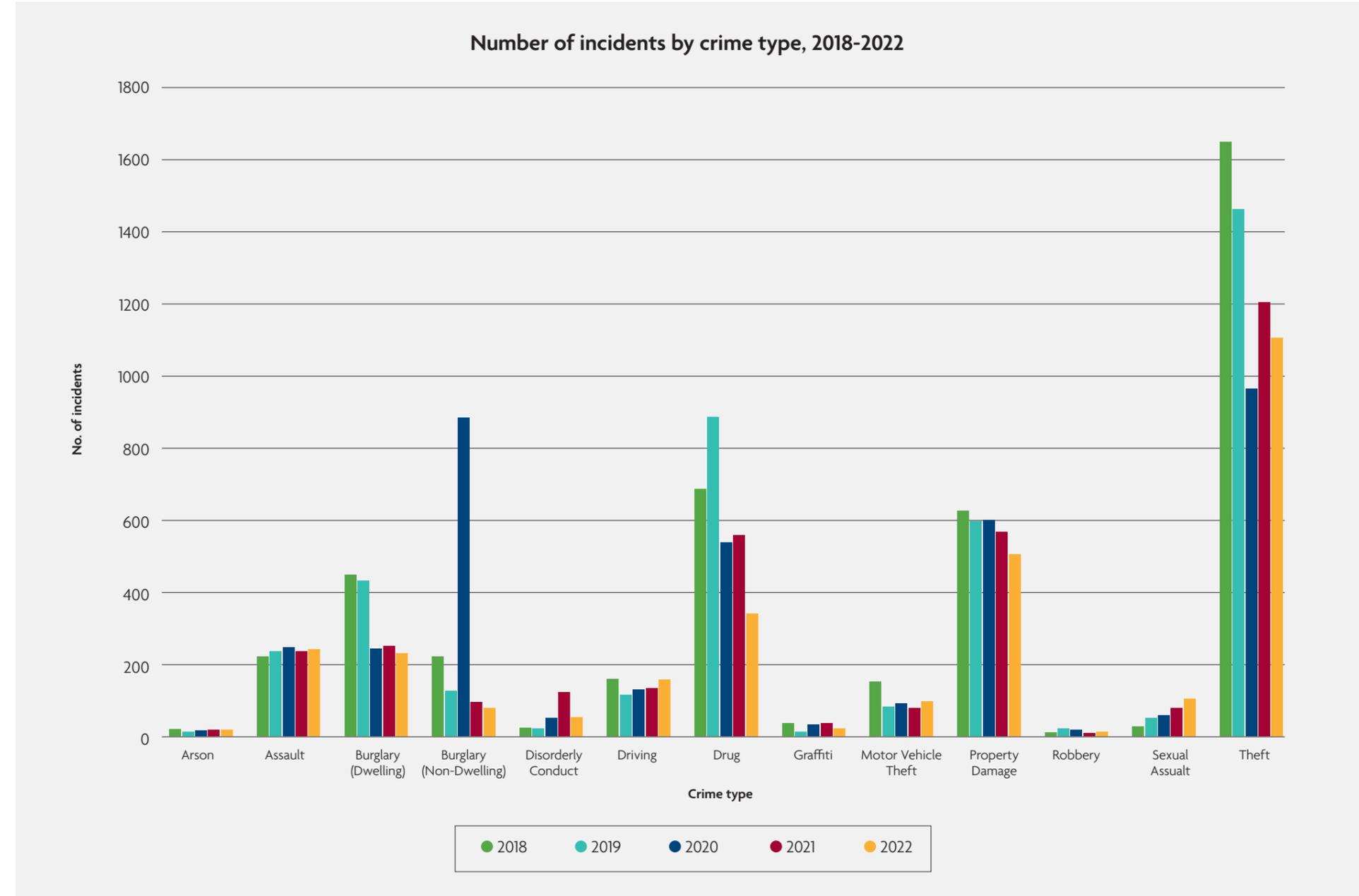
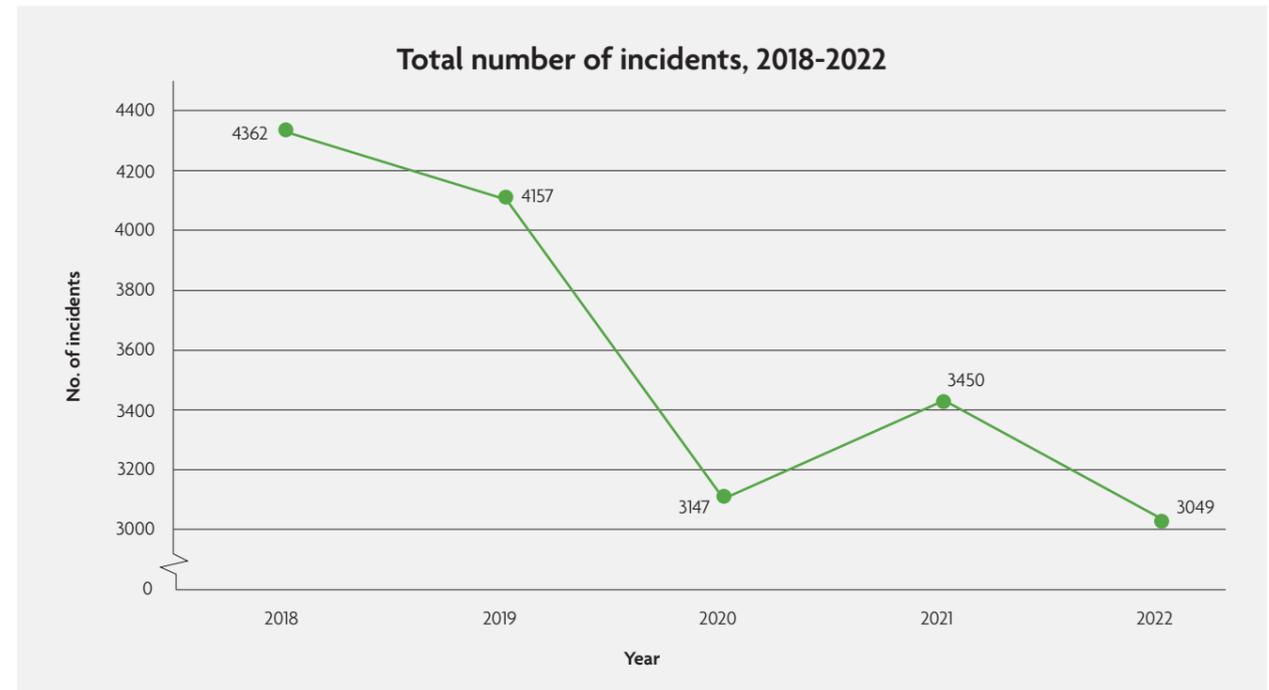
- The City of Bunbury works with many government agencies, not-for-profit organisations, businesses and community groups to address matters of community safety in the community. This is formalised via the City of Bunbury Community Safety Advisory Group (CSAG).



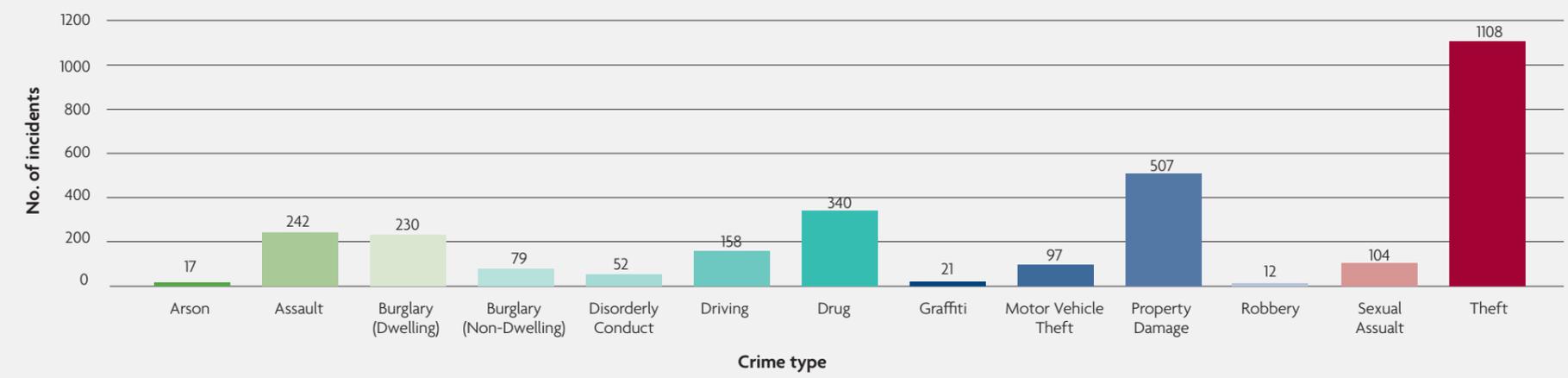
Community Safety Assessment

Current crime trends and patterns

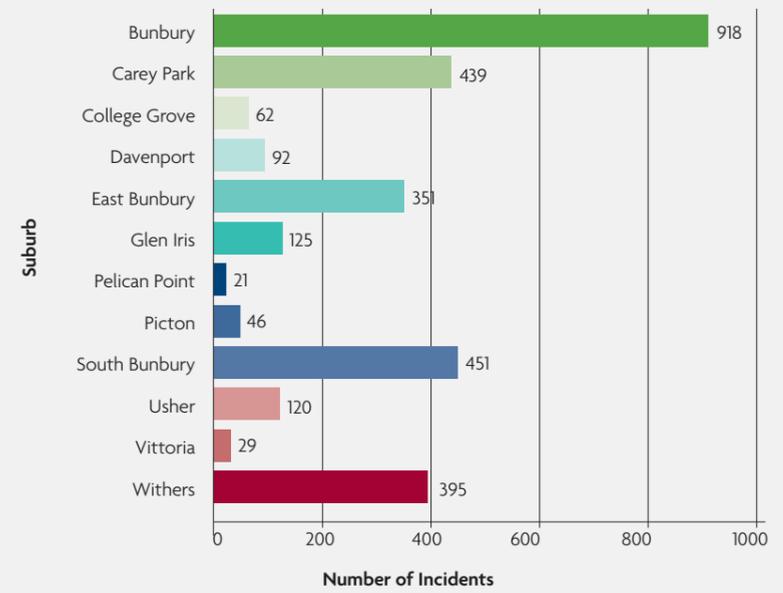
WA Police (WAPOL) data was analysed to ensure the actions developed for this Plan would address the nature of reported crimes in the City of Bunbury. Analysis revealed that the number of reported incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in the City of Bunbury has declined over the past five years. In 2022 the most prevalent crime types were theft, followed by property damage, followed by drug offences. The number of incidents was highest in the Bunbury CBD.



Number of incidents by crime type, 2022



Number of incidents by suburb, 2022



Consultation with community and stakeholders

To formulate this Plan, the City collaborated with Edith Cowan University (ECU) to enable a rigorous and independent research study. The primary objective of this research endeavour was to understand the nature of crime within the boundaries of the City of Bunbury and to evaluate the concerns expressed by the community. The research was guided by the following questions:

- What is the prevalence of crime and antisocial behaviour in the City of Bunbury?
- What are community perceptions of crime, anti-social behaviour and community safety?
- What are stakeholder perceptions of crime, antisocial behaviour and community safety?

The research included input from more than 200 participants who completed an online survey, 35 engaged residents who actively participated in community focus groups, and 17 stakeholders who took part in in-depth interviews with the research team.

The participants in the survey represented a broad demographic spectrum, consisting of 224 community members with an average age of 50 years. The age range spanned from 16 to 93 years old. This diverse representation ensured a comprehensive assessment of community perceptions.

The objective of this extensive consultation process was to gauge community perspectives on crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour. Additionally, the research aimed to bridge the gap between proven incidents resulting in charges, which is reflected in official WAPOL data, and community and stakeholder perceptions of crime. The consultation also delved into community perceptions regarding the necessary measures to prevent crime and enhance community feelings of safety within the area.

Data revealed that community members were most concerned about:

Illicit drug use and dealing

People driving too fast/recklessly

Theft

Property damage

Violence in the CBD

Community members felt least safe at the **bus station** and were concerned about anti-social behaviour and social welfare issues at this location. Community members acknowledge that historic incidents, in part, shaped their perceptions of this space.

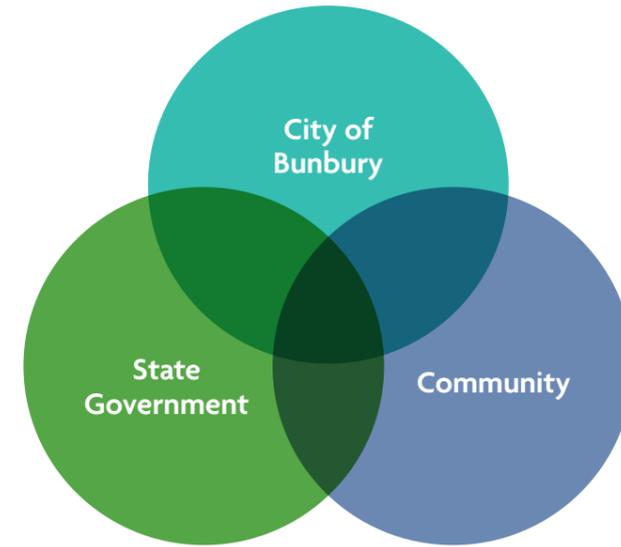
Preferred crime prevention and community safety strategies included:

- Increased police presence
- Targeted security presence at high-risk locations
- Infrastructural upgrades and maintenance, in particular improved lighting.
- Placemaking and activation
- Communication and education

The objectives and action items in this Plan have been developed based on the findings of this community consultation, analysis of police data, and consideration of relevant literature regarding 'what works' in preventing crime and improving perceptions of safety.



The role of the City in Community Safety and Crime Prevention



Crime prevention is most effective when quality collaboration is achieved between all stakeholders. The State Government provides emergency response services like WA Police and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, along with social services such as the Department of Communities. The City of Bunbury partners with these agencies, along with community organisations, businesses, and residents, to maximise capacity in understanding and addressing the issues related to community safety and the fear of crime.

While response to actual crime is primarily managed by Police, the City of Bunbury can impact community safety through planning and development strategies that minimise the opportunity for anti-social behavior and reduce the fear of crime. Activating spaces and supporting responsible agencies are tangible opportunities that the City can embrace to have a genuine impact on safety and our community's future.

Local knowledge and local support are the City's greatest assets and the City is committed to harnessing these resources in efforts to address the crime prevention challenges that exist now or may develop in the future, due to a rapidly changing world and economy. Community members play an active role in making our community safe and ensuring a resilient, connected community. The City will continue to enhance effective communication with community members, foster partnerships, and mobilise local resources to manage changing priorities and concerns.

This Plan provides actions linked to education, support and information that will inform the City of Bunbury's strategic direction for the next five years, and work towards a safer tomorrow for all community members and visitors to the City of Bunbury.

The City of Bunbury can actively contribute to community safety and crime prevention in the following ways:

A woman with long blonde hair is sitting on a sandy beach, looking out at the ocean during sunset. She is wearing a white top and dark pants. A blue and white striped bag is on the sand next to her. The background shows waves crashing on the shore under a warm, golden sky.

 FUND We help to fund organisations to deliver essential community services.	 ADVOCATE We are a voice for the local community on key issues.	 PARTNER We form strategic alliances in the interests of the community.
 FACILITATE We help to make it possible or easier to meet community needs.	 PROVIDE We directly provide a range of services and facilities to meet community needs.	 REGULATE We regulate compliance with legislation, regulation and local laws.

Desired Outcome and Associated Objectives

This Plan outlines the actions that will guide the City of Bunbury towards the **desired outcome of 'A safe community'**. Collaboration and partnership are essential to the Plan and our ability to achieve these actions. Building a safer Bunbury is the responsibility of multiple agencies, services and community members. The City's primary role is as a facilitator to link and support these varied stakeholders to identify common goals and ensure unified movement in the same direction.

The Plan comprises eight objectives that sit under three themes: **Safe Spaces, Active Spaces** and **An Informed and Engaged Community**. A description of each theme is provided, and relevant objectives are listed.



Theme 1: Safe spaces.

Theme 1 incorporates objectives that aim to create safe spaces for residents, workers, volunteers and visitors within the City of Bunbury. The goal is a proactive approach to crime prevention to create a safer future, incorporating target-hardening; making it harder for those who are motivated to engage in anti-social and criminal behaviour to do so, and designing public spaces in a way that deters anti-social and criminal behaviour. A final focus of Theme 1 is partnership, in recognition of the many agencies and groups who work to ensure the safety of community members.

- **Objective 1:** Implement crime prevention strategies at key, strategic locations.
- **Objective 2:** Consider principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) in all future City planning work.
- **Objective 3:** Work in partnership with existing agencies and working groups who focus on addressing issues of safety in public spaces.



Theme 2: Activated spaces.

Theme 2 incorporates objectives that seek to activate, and create a sense of belonging to, public spaces in the City of Bunbury. Public spaces that are activated, where human activity and social interaction occurs often and naturally, contributes to feelings of community wellbeing and reduces the fear of crime. This is achieved through increased surveillance, the deterrence of anti-social and/or criminal behaviour, and the creation of spaces where people feel connected and responsible for their community. Encouraging a sense of connection with a space through place-making initiatives is associated with an improved sense of safety.

- **Objective 4:** Enhance opportunities for community-led place making and activation of local spaces.
- **Objective 5:** Consider principles of place-making and activation in all City-led initiatives.



Theme 3: An informed and engaged community.

Theme 3 incorporates objectives that aim to ensure an informed and engaged community. Often there is a disconnect between perceived and actual threat of crime. The provision of information about actual threat, can help to allay fear that arises from misperceptions of threat. Information also empowers community members to play an active role in ensuring their safety and the safety of their community. They are aware of available initiatives and resources, and able to make informed decisions to reduce their vulnerabilities. Knowing that the City is working actively towards community safety, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, also provides reassurance to community members, improving feelings of safety.

- **Objective 6:** Share information about crime and crime prevention initiatives with the community.
- **Objective 7:** Improve the capacity and efficiency of communication between the community and the City.
- **Objective 8:** Facilitate stakeholder engagement in, and input on safety matters that relate to the City of Bunbury.



Action Plan

The following table outlines the actions required to achieve each of the stated objectives. Also indicated is the responsible business unit within the City of Bunbury and the timeframe within which the action is to be completed.



Theme 1: Safe spaces

Objectives	Action	Responsible	Timeframe		
			Short	Mid	Long
1. Implement crime prevention strategies at key, strategic locations.	1.1 Continuously improve street and public lighting for pedestrians in areas of need.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services	✓	✓	✓
	1.2 Continuously improve CCTV capacity and quality at key strategic locations.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services Community Safety & Emergency Management	✓	✓	✓
	1.3 Provide traffic calming measures in identified 'hot spot' locations.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services	✓	✓	✓
	1.4 Investigate target hardening opportunities like bike lockers at the library, Koolambidi Woola and South West Sports Centre.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services	✓		
	1.5 Advocate the importance of the Bikelinc program amongst local bike retailers.	Community Safety Advisory Group	✓		
	1.6 Partner with local shopping centres and retailers to increase shopper awareness of target hardening strategies.	Community Safety Advisory Group Community Safety & Emergency Management	✓	✓	✓
2. Consider principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) in all future City planning work.	2.1 Facilitate a CPTED auditing tool for locations and properties experiencing issues related to crime and/or anti-social behaviour.	Community Safety & Emergency Management	✓		
	2.2 Ensure that CPTED principles are considered in all City planning work.	City Planning	✓	✓	✓
3. Work in partnership with existing agencies and working groups who focus on addressing issues of safety in public spaces.	3.1 Meet monthly with WA Police to discuss crime prevention efforts and required response to identified issues.	Community Safety & Emergency Management	✓	✓	✓
	3.2 Facilitate the Alcohol Accord and request that the Accord consider end-of night services in the CBD.	Community Safety & Emergency Management	✓	✓	✓
	3.3 Advocate for investment in emergency accommodation for rough sleepers to ensure the safety of those experiencing homelessness.	Sustainable Communities	✓		
	3.4 Collaborate with organisations who assist those experiencing homelessness via the Rough Sleepers Coordination group to ensure the safety of these community members.	Community Safety & Emergency Management	✓	✓	✓

Theme 2: Activated spaces

Objectives	Action	Responsible	Timeframe		
			Short	Mid	Long
4.. Enhance opportunities for community-led place making and activation of local spaces.	4.1 Continue to support community-led events that contribute to place making and/or activation of public spaces through the City of Bunbury Grants Program.	Community Partnerships and Events	✓	✓	✓
	4.2 Partner with local community organisations, not-for-profit organisations, and interest groups to facilitate a diverse range of events and activities in local spaces.	Community Partnerships and Events	✓	✓	✓
	4.3 Invest in necessary infrastructure, amenities, and maintenance to make local spaces more attractive and functional. Ensure a particular focus on parks and recreational spaces outside the Bunbury CBD.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services Community Facilities	✓	✓	✓
	4.4 Facilitate the activation of youth spaces in and beyond the CBD in consultation with the City of Bunbury Youth Advisory Council (YAC).	Community Partnerships and Events	✓	✓	✓
5. Consider principles of place-making and activation in all City-led initiatives.	5.1 Ensure that place-making and activation are key guiding principles in the Bunbury Bus Station redevelopment plan.	City Planning	✓	✓	
	5.2 Facilitate internal focus on place-making and activation efforts within the City of Bunbury through internal dialogue between relevant business areas.	Community Safety & Emergency Management Community Partnerships and Events	✓	✓	

Theme 3: An informed and engaged community

Objectives	Action	Responsible	Timeframe		
			Short	Mid	Long
6. Share information about crime and crime prevention initiatives with the community.	6.1 Create a Community Safety webpage on the City of Bunbury website. Provide relevant links and information to community members on issues related to community safety and emergency preparedness and ensure that the website is updated regularly.	Community Safety & Emergency Management Marketing and Communications	✓		
	6.2 Investigate alternative mechanisms of information sharing for those who are not aligned with technology.	Marketing and Communications	✓		
7. Improve the capacity and efficiency of communication between the community and the City.	7.1 Establish a communication strategy to ensure proactive, appropriate, and timely communication of community safety matters to community members. Ensure a focus on achievements and successes, as well as City involvement in proactive, community safety initiatives.	Community Safety & Emergency Management Marketing and Communications	✓		
	7.2 Connect with local resident groups and facilitate reciprocal communication about matters relating to crime and community safety.	Community Safety & Emergency Management	✓	✓	✓
	7.3 Explore technological solutions to facilitate improved communication from and to the community.	Data and Digital	✓		
8. Facilitate stakeholder engagement in, and input on safety matters that relate to the City of Bunbury.	8.1 Facilitate the continuation of the Community Safety Advisory Group (CSAG) via bi-annual meetings.	Community Safety & Emergency Management	✓	✓	✓



Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring of, and reporting on the CSCP Plan and related actions will occur in the following ways:

- Regular internal reporting on actions within relevant City of Bunbury business units.
- Biannual reporting on actions to the City of Bunbury Community Safety Advisory Group.
- Annual reporting on actions to Council.
- Regular reporting on activity to the community via the Community Safety Community Strategy (Action 7.1).
- Mid plan review of CSCP Plan.
- The impact of the CSCP Plan will be assessed via analysis of future scores on the MARKYT Community Scorecard.





How to Get Involved

Want to help build a better, brighter Bunbury?

Please reach out to your Elected Member or the responsible officer at the City of Bunbury to share your thoughts and ideas.

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