



# ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## INTRODUCTION

**Safety in public places is a major issue for many local residents. Anti-social behaviour and binge drinking are consistently raised as a significant concern across the Sutherland Shire. In recognition of these concerns the Mayor, Councillor Lorraine Kelly, tabled a Mayoral Minute at the Council meeting of 20 October 2008. Within this minute the Mayor committed to the development of a strategy to address alcohol related anti-social behaviour and highlighted the need to work with Police, other levels of government and community organisations to address the problems outlined below.**

Alcohol consumption and anti-social behaviour ranging from underage young people drinking in parks, through to adults leaving licensed premises late at night often causes many members of the community to feel unsafe. Anti-social behaviour, stemming from the effects of alcohol, prevents others from enjoying public spaces which are designed for all. The link between alcohol and sport in Australia is long standing. There are unique factors associated with sports clubs serving alcohol that sometimes make it difficult for them to meet the requirements of their licence. For this reason, club committees and licensees need to be very aware of their obligations under the Liquor Act.

The Miranda and Sutherland Liquor Accords have also identified patrons who refuse to leave, who become intoxicated and who are argumentative as particular issues of concern across many licensed premises.

Increasing levels of 'incivility' or anti-social behaviour also impact on the perceived safety of an area. Rudeness, brashness, inappropriate behaviour and loitering are sometimes seen as indicative of more serious crime in an area. Risk taking behaviour, especially amongst young people in public places has also been raised as a concern.

Malicious Damage is one of the few offences where reported levels of crime within Sutherland Shire is close to that of the Sydney average. Malicious damage includes not only graffiti but also deliberate damage to public or private assets such as setting fires and littering. Council is committed to rapidly removing graffiti and implementing repairs associated with vandalism on council assets.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles can be used to increase safety and reduce the opportunity to commit crime within the built environment by reducing the vulnerability of community assets, reducing illegitimate use of a space and increasing levels of surveillance in the area.

Underpinning effective strategic approaches to crime prevention and excessive alcohol consumption is the recognition that law enforcement and crime prevention through environmental design initiatives employed in isolation will not resolve complex social issues which are clearly linked to crime. In addition to these initiatives, there is a need for coordinated, coherent strategies that engage all levels of government, the community sector and local business in strategic partnerships. This move to 'a whole of government' approach requires a significant shift in the thinking of agencies, directly and indirectly involved in crime prevention to:

- Form pooled budgets or co-contribute for joint projects
- Form partnership arrangements across and within levels of government and with the community sector
- Coordinate service delivery and jointly develop specifications for tendered services
- Integrate planning that balances the triple bottom line - social, economic and environmental impacts
- Utilise innovative community engagement and management models
- Create and share joint databases that effectively capture useful information
- Develop mutually agreed performance criteria
- Implement rigorous evaluation and reporting of 'what works' and 'what doesn't'.

## LINKS TO EXISTING PLANS

### SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008/2009 – 2010/2011

**Principle Activity: A safe community, where everybody has an opportunity to take part in social life**

#### **Outcomes identified in the Guide**

- Lower crime rates than Sydney average
- Greater responsibility for personal behaviour and reduction in anti-social behaviour
- Improved perceptions of safety by the local community and visitors to the Shire.

#### **Council's objectives**

- Improve the level of actual and perceived safety in public places
- Work with local police to reduce alcohol and reduce alcohol related vandalism and anti social behaviour
- Develop, support and implement crime prevention programs using social support and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) approaches.

### SUTHERLAND SHIRE CRIME PREVENTION PLAN 2006 - 2010

**Key objective 1 – To increase the level of perceived and actual safety in public spaces.**

**Key objective 3 – To reduce the amount and impact of alcohol related crime.**

### NSW STATE PLAN

#### **Priority R1 – Reduce rates of crime, particularly violent crime**

1. Reduce property crime by 15% by 2016
2. Reduce violent crime by 10% by 2016

#### **Priority R2 – Reducing re-offending**

1. Reduce re-offending by 10% by 2016

#### **Priority R3 – Reduce levels of anti-social behaviour**

1. Reduce problems with louts, noisy neighbours, public drunkenness and hoons.

### NSW POLICE FORCE, CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2012

#### **Reduced rates of crime**

- Coordinate resources dedicated to crime prevention
- Target repeat offenders and crime hotspots
- Target alcohol and drug related crime.

#### **Reduced perception and fear of crime**

- Increase community engagement
- Enable local solutions to local problems.

#### **Reduced levels of antisocial behaviour**

- Increase and improve coordination of visible authority
- Target antisocial behaviour.

#### **Increased community confidence in police**

- Collaborate with the community and partner agencies.

### LINKS TO EXISTING COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

- Sutherland Shire Community Crime Prevention and Safety Committee
- Cronulla Safety Action Group
- Sutherland Shire Vandalism Prevention Unit
- Youth Involvement in Crime Working Group
- Cronulla and Miranda Liquor and Gaming Accord
- Sutherland LAC Liquor Accord
- Event Planning Workshops
- Late Night Transport Working Group
- Sutherland Shire Youth Council

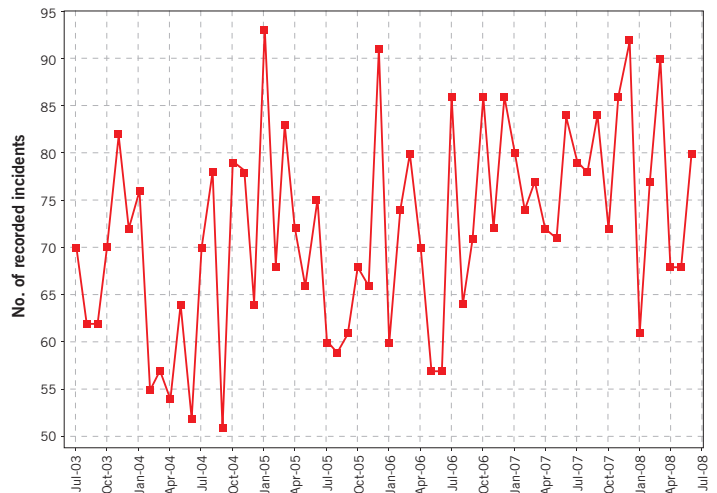
# CURRENT CRIME PROFILES ON SPECIFIC OFFENCES AND HOTSPOTS

Below is a brief summary of relevant information sourced from *Sutherland Shire: 2007 – Local Government Area Crime Report* published by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research – (BOCSAR) and the bureau’s online data tools

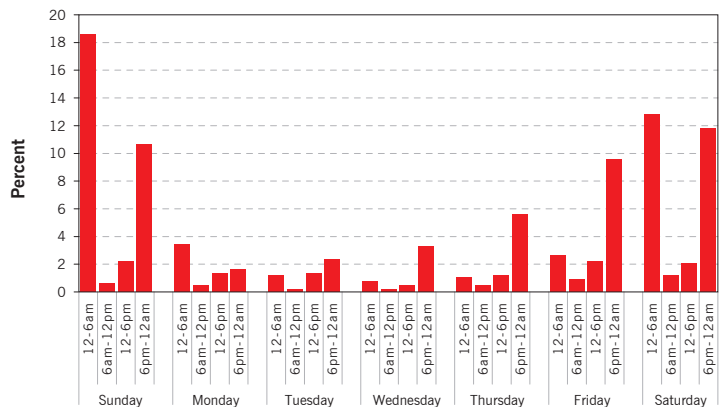
## ASSAULT – NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED (A)

July 2003 to June 2008

- Statistically significant upward trend over the 60 month period
- The average annual percentage change was: 4.8%
- There was 847 incidents in 2006
- 320 occurred in an outdoor/public place, 183 on a residential premises and 144 in licensed premises
- Sutherland Shire is ranked 113 out of 143 LGA's
- Incidents are spread fairly evenly throughout the year with minor peaks in July and October.
- Most offences occur between 6pm Friday to 6am Saturday and between 6pm Saturday to 6am Sunday
- The two largest hotspots are Cronulla and Sutherland CBD's with sub-major hotspot in Miranda.



(A) ASSAULT - NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED



(B) ALCOHOL RELATED ASSAULTS

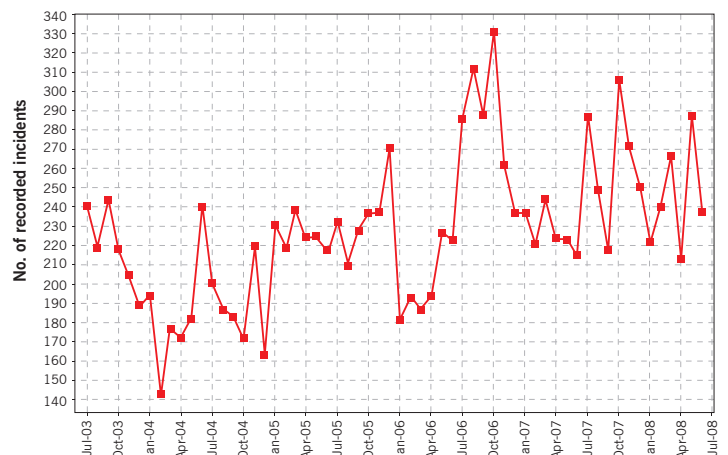
## ALCOHOL RELATED ASSAULTS (B)

- Alcohol related assaults show a slightly different pattern and are more likely to occur in December, from midnight Saturday to 6am Sunday, with a major hotspot in Cronulla and sub-major hotspot in Sutherland.

## MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY (C)

July 2003 to June 2008

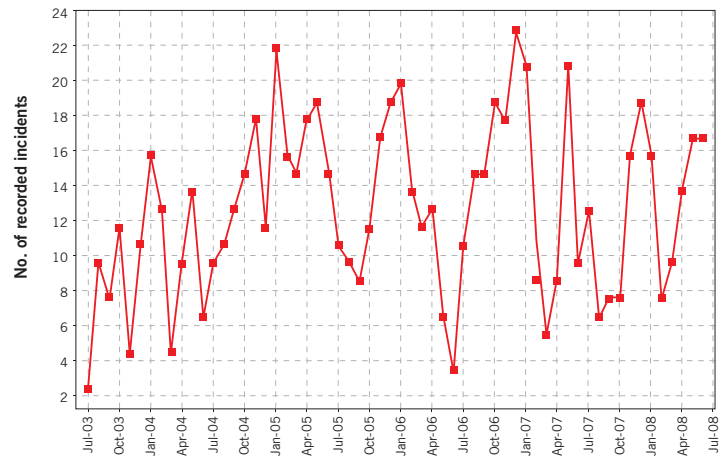
- Statistically significant upward trend over the 60 month period
- The average annual percentage change was: 5.9%
- There was 2,903 reported offences in 2006



(C) MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

**MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY (CONT.)**

- 953 occurred on a residential premises, 584 on education property, and 305 on retail/wholesale property
- Of interest, 519 offences were reported in an outdoor/public place, and 80 on transport facilities which significantly underestimates offences on these type of properties
- Sutherland Shire is ranked 95 out of 143 LGA's
- Incidents are spread fairly evenly throughout the year with peak in October
- Most offences occur from 6pm Friday to 6am Saturday and between 6pm Saturday to 6am Sunday, with Saturday night being significantly higher than Friday night
- Malicious Damage is spread throughout the shire with hotspots located along the train lines and focussed on Cronulla.

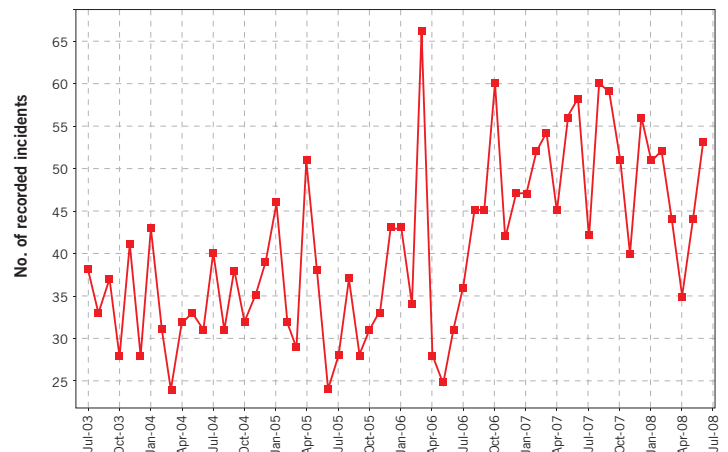


**(D) OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE**

**OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE (D)**

July 2003 to June 2008

- No statistically significant upward or downward trend over the 60 month period
- Peaks in January each year.

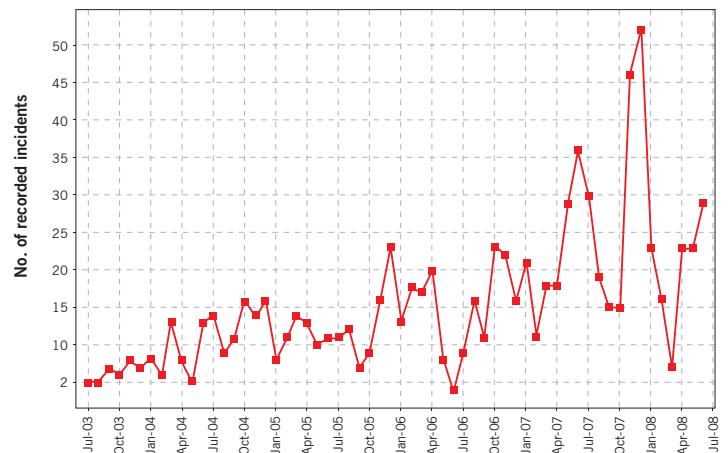


**(E) OFFENSIVE CONDUCT**

**OFFENSIVE CONDUCT (E)**

July 2003 to June 2008

- Statistically significant Upward trend over the 60 month period
- The average annual percentage change was: 34.5%
- Large peak in November/December 2007 although this is not reflected in other years.



**(F) HARASSMENT, THREATENING BEHAVIOUR AND PRIVATE NUISANCE**

**HARASSMENT, THREATENING BEHAVIOUR AND PRIVATE NUISANCE (F)**

July 2003 to June 2008

- Statistically significant upward trend over the 60 month period
- The average annual percentage change was: 10.1%
- No set seasonal pattern.

## OTHER KEY LOCAL STATISTICS

### Sutherland LAC – 01/01/2008 - 30/11/2008 (11 months)

- 63 Your choice invitations issued (as a result of identified underage drinking)
- 5 Consume alcohol in alcohol free zone infringements issued
- 78 incidents for offensive behaviour
- 62 incidents for offensive language.

### Miranda LAC – 01/01/2008 - 30/11/2008 (11 months)

- 172 Your choice invitations issued (as a result of identified underage drinking)
- 14 “Person under 18 possess liquor in public place” infringements issued
- 8 “Fail to comply with terms of notice erected by council” infringements issued.

## AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS, CRIME AND SAFETY SURVEY, NSW 2008

Based on 5,100 persons

### Reporting rates for offences

- Assault - 31%
- Robbery – 38%
- Break and enter – 60% (listed for comparison purposes only).

### Perception of crime/public nuisance

- 45% of people perceived a crime or public nuisance problem in their neighbourhood
- The most commonly identified problems were
  - vandalism/graffiti/damage to property (26%)
  - dangerous/noisy driving (25%)
  - housebreaking/burglaries/theft from homes (21%)
  - louts/youth gangs (20%)
  - drunkenness (20%).
- This indicates a large proportion of the community identifies anti-social behaviours as a local issue.

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

### Sutherland Shire Neighbourhood Interaction and Participation Survey

Key points of interest

- Perceptions of safety increased marginally in 2007 while the rankings have remained constant over the four surveys. The biggest change has occurred in respondents' perception

of safety walking at night, which has slightly improved but has consistently been rated as the least safe of the four situations.

- Respondents from postcodes 2228 (Miranda) and 2230 (Cronulla) had the lowest relative perceptions of safety. The highest perceptions of safety were in postcodes 2233 (Engadine-Heathcote) and 2224 (Sylvania).
- Respondents in the 20 to 24 age group had the highest average perception of safety in 2007 shifting from one of the lowest averages in 2003. Those aged over 65 continued to have the lowest assessment of safety compared to other groups in the Shire.

### RESIDENTS WHO FEEL UNSAFE IN SPECIFIC LOCATIONS

		Percentage of Respondents	
Location	Year	2007	2003
Local Laneways		69.0	71.7
Train Stations		66.5	70.9
Local Parks		57.0	67.4
Local Car Park		47.5	63.0
Outside Pubs		47.5	47.0
Local Public Transport		44.3	50.4
Local Shopping Centre		32.9	40.4
<i>Total Respondents</i>		158	230

## POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

### National Binge Drinking Strategy

- Department of Health and Ageing
- Next available round late 2009
- Total pool of \$3.6M available as partnership grants to \$500,000 or single organisation to \$250,000.

### Safer Community Compacts

- NSW Attorney Generals Department, Crime Prevention Division
- Next rounds in February and September 2009
- Up to \$50,000pa for councils with a Safer Community Compact (SCC)
- Must be for an offence reduction strategy listed in the Crime Prevention Plan (SCC).

Smaller grants are available through a number of sources such as the NRMA Crime Prevention Grants.

## SUTHERLAND SHIRE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY

AIMS AND STRATEGIES		HOW	LEAD ORGANISATION
<b>1. Educate the community on responsible drinking and behaviour</b>			
1.1	Establish a working group to oversee the development and implementation of an appropriate education program	Develop and coordinate an education campaign as per below. Ensure the campaign is appropriate for the respective target groups of children, teenagers and parents	SSC – Community Services and Communications, NSW Police, Depts of Health and Education
1.2	Utilise high profile sports people and other ‘ambassadors’ to act as role models	In conjunction with media strategy, at youth events and during education campaigns	As above
1.3	Provide a focus on primary school and Year 9 students and parents including information on Alcohol Free and Prohibited Zones	Investigate options for working with Dept of Education and develop a range of communication strategies with students and parents	As above
1.4	Use personal stories and highlight local area issues	In conjunction with above	As above
1.5	Seek regular column/space in the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader for appropriate messages	Liaise with Leader to ascertain space availability and develop schedule of messages	As above

AIMS AND STRATEGIES		HOW	LEAD ORGANISATION
<b>2. Reduce the level of anti-social behaviour by patrons leaving licensed premises (cont)</b>			
2.1	Implement projects to train staff and patrons of licensed premises on harm minimisation, drink spiking, responsible service of alcohol, door policies and the like	In conjunction with staff and security training nights	Miranda and Sutherland Liquor Accords
2.2	Provide late night transport options for patrons such as secure taxi ranks, shuttle bus and taxi voucher schemes	1. Work with Liquor Accords to implement Taxi Voucher scheme. 2. Investigate the extension of the secure taxi rank program. 3. Seek additional funding for the shuttle bus	Miranda and Sutherland Liquor Accords and SSC – Road Safety
2.3	Undertake enforcement activity of licensed premises especially in regard to intoxication and overcrowding	Overt and covert operations in conjunction with Vikings Ops, Initiate joint operations between Police and SSC	NSW Police
2.4	Implement the Safer Times Project with Licensed Premises – this project aims to increase the safety in and around premises for women, thereby increasing safety for the entire community	Seek funding to implement program from 2009/10 FY	SSC – Community Services (externally funded)
2.5	Enforcement of licensing conditions especially in regard to late trading venues	Work with OLGR and NSW Police to monitor and enforce trading breaches and to suggest new licence conditions where warranted	NSW Police
2.6	Seek additional licence conditions for high risk venues	Write to OLGR seeking additional conditions where issues have been raised	NSW Police
2.7	Address the high number of function licence applications by providing advice to OLGR and support and education licensed organisation to run safe events	Develop an education strategy for function license holders and run an information seminar annually. Assess and comment on license applications	SSC – Compliance and Community Services, NSW Police

AIMS AND STRATEGIES		HOW	LEAD ORGANISATION
<b>3. Reduce drinking in public spaces (cont)</b>			
3.1	Educate young people about the dangers of binge drinking and the consequences of breaking relevant laws	Via media campaign above. Investigate options for working with schools and youth services.	Youth Services, Dept of Education
3.2	Educate Parents on relevant sections of legislation including safe parties, underage drinking and secondary supply to encourage responsible behaviour	Identify options eg media, school newsletters and develop a marketing strategy	Community Organisations and SSC – Community Services
3.3	Undertake a review of all alcohol free and alcohol prohibited zones to ensure they are located in appropriate areas and sufficient signage exists to support enforcement	Review all AFZ prior to renewal date of October 2011. Review APA's as public space is acquired/updated or as hotspots emerge	SSC - Community Services and Infrastructure Planning
3.4	Enforce Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas taking advantage of amended legislation regarding confiscation of alcohol	Investigate options presented with the passing of new legislation and develop a response.	NSW Police Force
3.5	Target hotspots of antisocial behaviour and enforce legislation related to underage drinking, offensive behaviour and offensive language, litter and indecent exposure	Prioritise hotspots and enforce as per strategy developed above.	NSW Police Force
3.6	Improve the ability for security and staff of licensed premises (including bottle shops) to identify fake ID's and potential secondary suppliers	Undertake staff and security training nights, educate licensees at accord meetings	Miranda and Sutherland Liquor Accords
3.7	Develop strategies to respond to the supply of alcohol to minors.	Improve the ability of enforcement agencies to identify point of sale of alcohol in the possession of young people.	Miranda and Sutherland Liquor Accords and NSW Police Force, OLGR
3.8	Implement a project to increase the safety during and after private parties especially those involving young people, by providing information to young people and their parents and implementing hall management techniques	Promote awareness of Celebrate Safe and Party Safe programs through schools and other outlets in conjunction with media strategy	Youth Services, Dept of Education
3.9	Run the Summer Survival Program in public spaces to reduce the level of risk taking behaviour in young people	Support Youth Services to implement program on an annual basis	Community Organisations and SSC – Community Services
3.10	Run the Winter Survival Program on Council playing fields and at youth events to reduce the level of risk taking behaviour in young people with a focus on underage drinking	Investigate funding options for this developed program and ensure funding is received annually	SSC - Community Services and Infrastructure Planning

AIMS AND STRATEGIES	HOW	LEAD ORGANISATION
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### 3. Reduce drinking in public spaces (cont)

3.11	Investigate the Good Sports Program or other projects to improve the responsible sale and consumption of alcohol at sporting fields	Invite Good Sports Organisation to council and prepare a report on options for implementation	NSW Police Force
3.12	Investigate extending the Your Choice Program to a greater range of young people and parents focussing on its educative role	Develop an amended program for educational purposes and run as required. Funding will need to be arranged	NSW Police Force
3.13	Implement resource sharing strategies between council and police to improve the enforcement of alcohol prohibitions in public spaces	Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Council and Police on a combined enforcement strategies	Miranda and Sutherland Liquor Accords

### 4. Increase the safety of specific locations and across the Shire

4.1	Undertake Community Safety Audits and/ or Crime Risk Analyses in priority locations across the Sutherland Shire and implement the recommendations of those audits	Council and Police work together to identify priority locations and hotspots. Recommendations are implemented and audited annually.	SSC - Community Services, NSW Police where required
4.2	Use the media strategically to raise areas of concern whilst highlighting the generally high level of safety across the shire	Media Releases on new strategies and upon release of crime statistics/other data	SSC – Communications and Community Services, NSW Police – Public Affairs
4.3	Investigate transport options for specific times/days and for events, especially late night and weekends	Continue Late Night Transport Working Group and working with Liquor Accords on Taxi Voucher scheme	SSC – Community Services, Road Safety and Traffic (externally funded)
4.4	Use high profile messages targeting young people that are likely to be passed on to other young people to deter underage drinking at high profile sites and/or events	Provide site and event specific information in high profile locations using, for example, variable message signs	SSC – Communications and Community Services, NSW Police

AIMS AND STRATEGIES		HOW	LEAD ORGANISATION
<b>5. Reduce graffiti and other vandalism</b>			
5.1	Continue the Vandalism Reward Scheme	Key stakeholders continue to meet and develop innovative response to the issue	SSC, NSW Police and other stakeholders
5.2	Involve the community in the identification of graffiti offenders.	Investigate alternative and additional aspects of the Reward Scheme to increase its effectiveness	VPU
5.3	Council Staff Graffiti Removal Rapid removal/repair on council assets Targeted removal on high profile residential areas Fee for Service Removal on commercial property	1. 2 x graffiti removal trucks plus contract work where necessary, 2. where resources allow, 3. as per demand from property owners	SSC – Building Works
5.4	Consider an increase in the graffiti removal budget	Examine current workload and removal timeframe and ascertain cost for improvements	SSC – Building Works
5.5	Government Property - Work with other agencies to improve graffiti removal practices (Housing, RTA, Education, Energy, Water)	Invite representatives from each Department to the first VPU meeting next year to develop strategies	VPU
5.6	Removal from Private Property – provide advice and support to residents affected by graffiti and vandalism	Develop a communication strategy for resident affected by graffiti on prevention and removal strategies	VPU
5.7	Investigate options for Volunteer Removal/ Community Service Orders/Work for the Dole	Meet with Probation and Parol and Juvenile Justice, Develop and implement strategy	SSC- Community Services, Probation & Parole, Juvenile Justice
5.8	Target Primary school children – “Respecting Public Space Art Competition” with graffiti learning module for the classroom eg Shire Pride	Learning module has been developed. Notify schools for term 3 project. Launch at end term 3	VPU
5.9	Community Education and targeted offender deterrence with the ongoing use of the graffiti sticker	Utilisation of sticker at appropriate locations – develop policy and communicate to all staff	SSC – Building Works
5.10	Prevention of graffiti in particularly bad locations, based on either the level of graffiti or the negative impact on community- use graffiti database to prioritise.	Target 3 priority locations per year, assess site, develop recommendations and implement. Impact to be evaluated.	VPU
5.11	DA Protocol – crime risk assessment to include vandalism – update protocol	Protocol is currently operating however requires review and update. Police and council staff to be trained in its application	SSC – Environmental Services and Community Services, NSW Police

AIMS AND STRATEGIES		HOW	LEAD ORGANISATION
<b>5. Reduce graffiti and other vandalism (cont)</b>			
5.12	Responsible Retailers Audits of compliance with sale and display legislation – all retail stores – ongoing project	Second annual audit to be undertaken to ensure ongoing compliance	VPU- all members, Office of Fair Trading
5.13	Ensuring programs and results/arrests receive appropriate media profile	Joint media releases indicating arrest and result especially where compensation is granted	VPU and SSC – Communications, NSW Police – Public Affairs
5.14	Providing police prosecutors with data to enable compensation as part of sentencing – graffiti database	Costs of removal/repair are clearly documented and database is used correctly. Police access information appropriately.	VPU
5.15	Covert Camera- Provide evidence to act and prosecute offenders, and to gather information to allow future operations in conjunction with Police	Covert camera system deployed at hotspots on a rotating basis – police provide operational support to arrest offenders.	VPU and NSW Police
5.16	Report offences to Police to allow for proactive tasking and deployment	Malicious damage offences on council property are reported to PAL. Police use data for tasking and deployment	SSC – Community Services and Security, NSW Police
5.17	Develop a positive media campaign to promote care for the local area	Investigate options for campaign and report on recommendations	SSC – Community Services and Communications

<b>6. Deflecting offenders through the provision of alternate activities</b>			
6.1	Provide events for young people such as band nights which are drug and alcohol free, and support private promoters to run safe and inclusive youth events.	Youth Events Coordinator to develop annual events plan and promote Sutherland Shire to private promoters	SSC – Community Services (Partially externally funded)
6.2	Provide outreach youth workers targeting anti-social behaviour in high risk public locations including those in isolated areas	Strengthen role of outreach workers in ASB hotspot locations and present options to council	SSC – Community Services and Shire Wide Youth Services (Partially externally funded)
6.3	Provide places for youth to congregate safely and under supervision with a focus on isolated areas.	In conjunction with youth events above, and through supporting existing youth centres to run drop-in programs and other activities.	Youth Services and SSC – Community Services

