

2025-2029
COMMUNITY
SAFETY
AND CRIME
PREVENTION
PLAN



How the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan connects with our other strategic plans

The 2025-2029 Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan will be embedded into our integrated planning and reporting framework to ensure what is planned is delivered through robust planning and resource allocations.

At the centre of the framework is the Towards 2040 Community Strategic Plan – it describes the community's vision and aspirations. The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan is a key document providing specific strategic direction and sits alongside a range of other plans, strategies and policies as shown in the diagram below.



The design of the Plan has a whole-of-community approach, to be used by everyone in the region, in delivering improved community safety and crime prevention outcomes.

Strategic context

Towards Community Strategic Plan: Theme 5 Liveability

Goal	We are a diverse, vibrant, safe and healthy region that includes a variety of public spaces and amenities
Objectives	5.1 The health and safety of the community is improved
Strategies	5.1.3 There is an appropriate level of policing in our region
Actions	5.0.3.1 Implement the adopted Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan

For more information on Council's plans visit:
dubbo.nsw.gov.au/About-Council
 (A-Z Plans and Strategies)



or scan the QR code

Disclaimer statement

The information is current at time of completing this plan and some information may change during the lifetime of the 2025-2029 Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan. Community members are advised to contact relevant service providers, organisers, authorities, and Dubbo Regional Council Customer Experience Team if they have any questions.



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay our respects to Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri Nation and thank them for their care of the land, water and sky and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians.

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Our vision

To create a liveable, well-planned, safe region that is welcoming and where people can engage with others to live, work and socialise.

We want to grow opportunities for people in our region to feel safe as they use and enjoy public spaces.



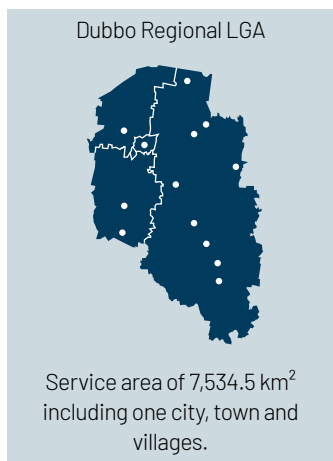
Our commitment

- Advancing the wellbeing and prosperity of the community.
- Working with our community, service providers, organisations, and local business to contribute to the building of a safe and resilient community with reduced attraction for crime.
- Enhancing community health and safety is at the forefront of our efforts.
- Community lifestyle and social needs are supported.
- Considering the unique characteristics of the community, responding to feedback, and collecting information from various sources to provide a clear direction for actions needed to enhance community safety.

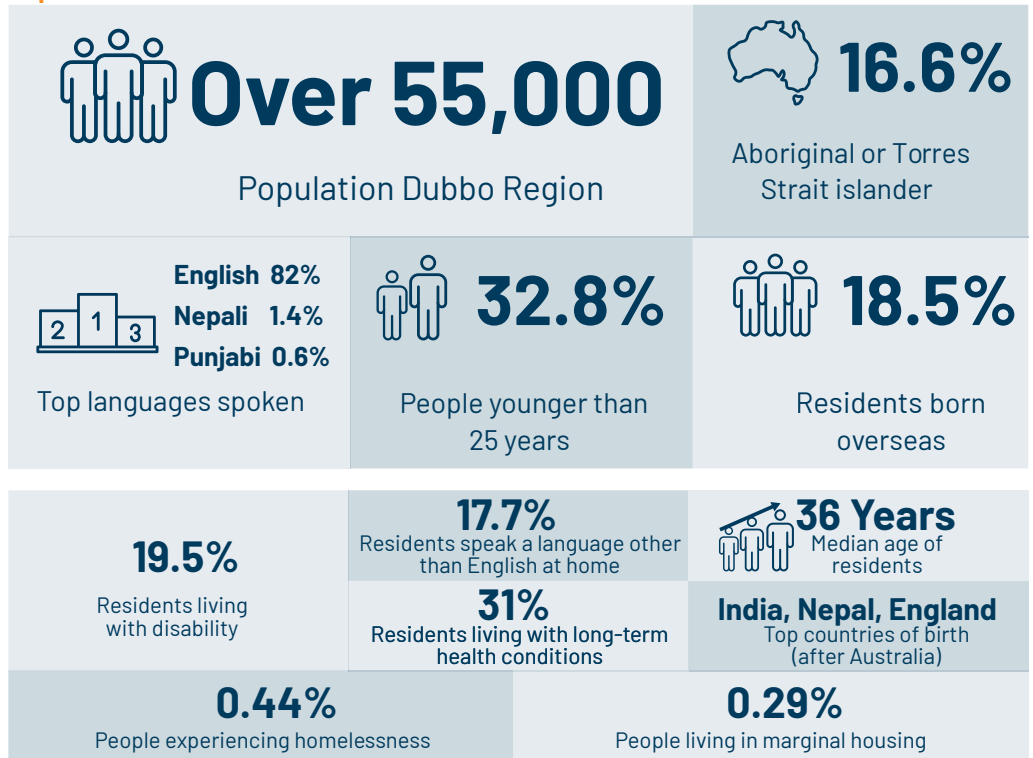
The Dubbo Region's profile

The Dubbo Region is home to a growing and diverse population with broad skills and experiences providing richness to culture, health, and wellbeing. Diversity brings strength to a community.

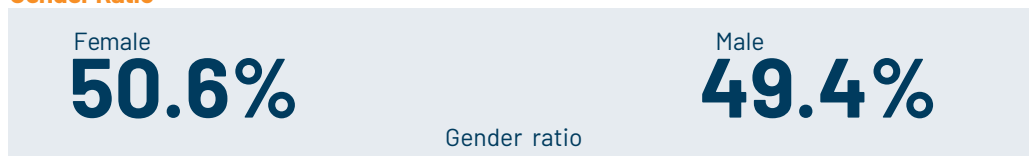
Our region is growing and becoming more culturally diverse. Our youth (0 – 25 years) make up 32.3% of our community and brings with them their energy and the potential for future economic growth and a stronger, more resilient community. The richness of our community is further strengthened by 17.7% of residents older than 65 years who can contribute their valuable knowledge and experience.



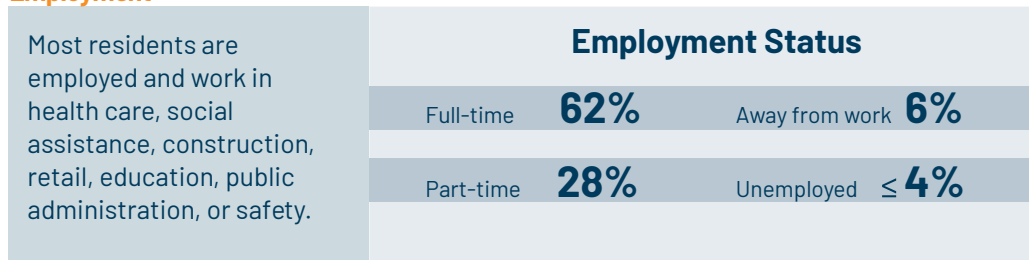
Population



Gender Ratio



Employment



Our challenges and opportunities

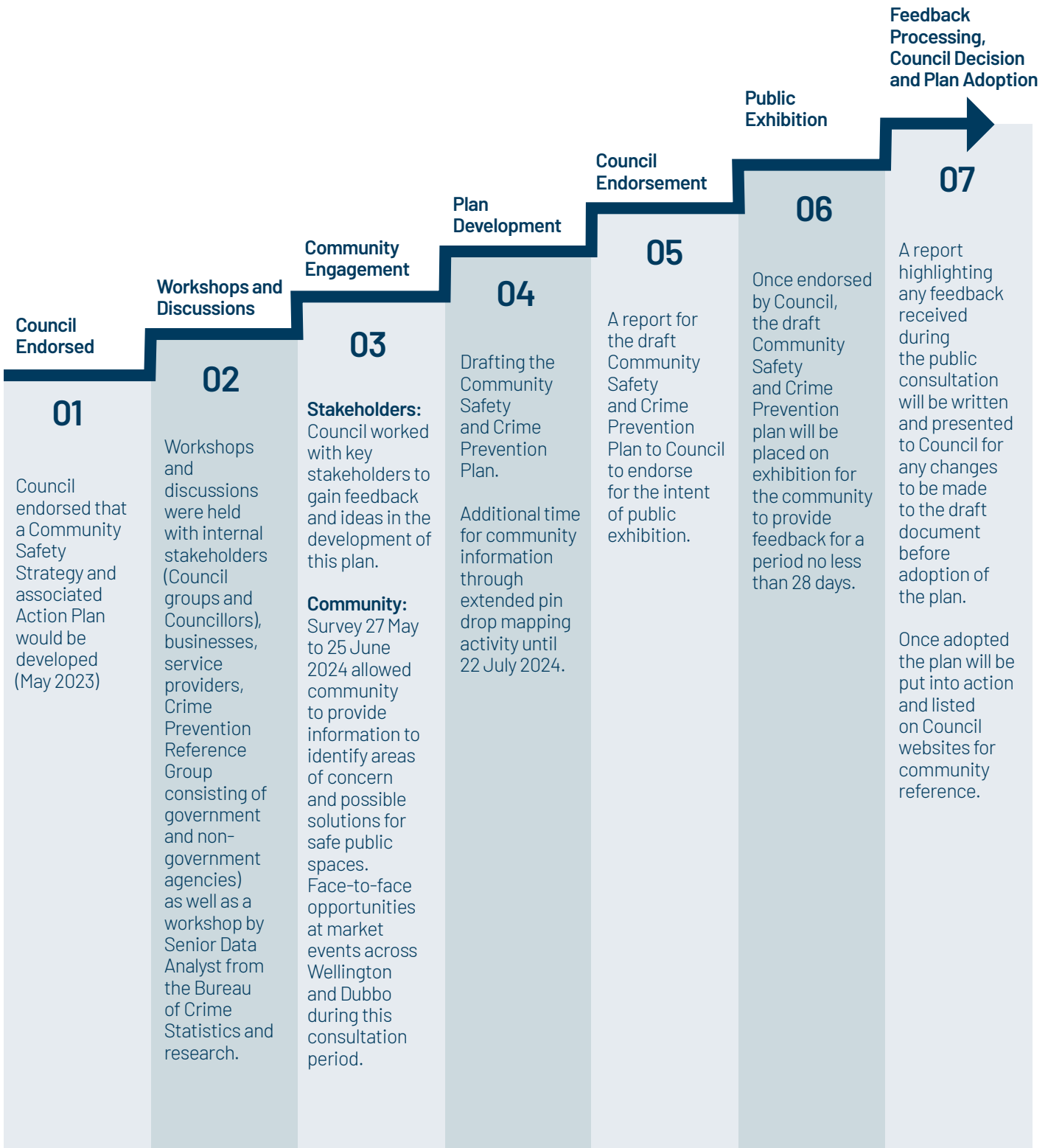
When people feel more comfortable while they are out and about in public places, they tend to engage in activities and behaviours that support their wellbeing through increased connection with other people. There is a need though for better coordination and collaboration between service providers, government, and non-government agencies to enhance community safety to reduce attraction for crime potential.

Public places that feel safe encourage people to go there more often and stay there longer to participate in joyful activities which benefit their social, physical, and mental health, which enhance greater community cohesion. The Dubbo Region is a thriving and dynamic region. As a growing regional Local Government Area, the Dubbo Region includes a diverse population which has access to health, social, law and justice services, public recreational parks and sporting places.

How we developed this plan

Dubbo Regional Council developed this plan through a process of research and community consultation. To seek an understanding of our region's crime profile, we analysed regional crime statistics via the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR), as well as consulted government law enforcement and justice agencies.

Workshops were held with internal stakeholders (Council staff and Councillors), as well as with external stakeholders (e.g., businesses) to gain insights into what a desirable community looks like in terms of community safety and crime prevention. This was followed by public community consultation through the Community Insights and Input Survey, as well as the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Community Engagement surveys conducted during 2024. These surveys collected information from community members through online opportunities (YourSay page, Dubbo Regional Council website), phone, and in-person or face-to-face opportunities at pop-up stalls during the community consultation periods. Additional conversations with members representing service provider agencies, social community groups, and sporting community groups assisted in building a broader understanding of the views, concerns, and suggestions to help inform the development of this plan.



What is community safety?

Safe communities can be described as places where people can live without fear and enjoy positive health and wellbeing influences on their daily lives. Community safety relies on social connection supported by efforts from all community members and key external stakeholders.

Community safety is complex and includes issues that extend beyond crime and the perception of crime. The policing of criminal activity has its place in enhancing community safety, but other factors such as housing, public transport, employment, health and social services, and well-maintained public amenities must be taken into account.

Community safety is achievable through shared responsibility and collaboration to provide meaningful solutions to create safe environments where people can live, work, play, and go about their daily lives without actual or perceived threats to their safety.

Several agencies play a role in preserving community safety, such as the NSW Police for the prevention, detection, and investigation of crime, as well as NSW Communities and Justice, NSW Health, NSW Education and Social Housing providers, all who deliver services that impact the health, wellbeing, and safety of the community.

Creating a sense of cohesive community is further strengthened by the actions and activities of local government and non-government organisations, such as Council, businesses, sporting clubs, community groups, and community members.

Guiding principles

When developing strategic documents, three guiding principles ensure that Council remains connected to and representative of community needs and voices. The principles detailed below steer the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan:

1

Integrated and Coordinated Proactive Approach

Federal and State Government policies and programs will be considered when formulating plans, key activities, and actions.

2

Evidence-Based Decision Making

Continuous consultation with the community and relevant agencies will help develop effective solutions to local safety and crime issues.

3

Monitoring and Evaluation

The plan will be monitored and reviewed annually to assess progress and ensure that it remains dynamic and applicable to community needs, ensuring that focus areas and priority actions are planned for and resourced.

What is crime prevention?

Crime prevention can be described as those activities by an individual or group, public or private, that attempt to eliminate crime before it occurs or before any additional criminal activity results.

Crime prevention requires well-planned interventions that promote community safety and contribute to the sustainable development of vibrant communities.

Crime prevention can reduce the long-term costs for the criminal justice system as well as the economic and social costs of crime. It can achieve a significant return on investment in terms of savings in justice, welfare, health care, and the protection of social and human capital.

Furthermore, a safe and secure society provides an important foundation for the delivery of community directed services, is a prerequisite for sound economic growth through continuing business investment and to facilitate community well-being and cohesion.

What is a community safety and crime prevention plan?

A community safety and crime prevention plan is a guide that is developed in response to the unique characteristics and needs of its community. Actions from the plan will seek to enhance community safety and reduce the opportunity for criminal activity. A community safety and crime prevention plan considers the perceptions of the community, environmental design principles, and reported crime statistics to develop actions that have the capacity to initiate and affect positive outcomes for the community and every individual within it.

A whole-of-community approach

Community safety is everyone's business, and no single level of government, community service provider, or individual can be held responsible for, nor be capable of achieving overall positive outcomes to reduce the drivers and root causes of crime in regional and rural NSW. Building a cohesive community that is safe and where community members relate to each other relies on the active participation of multiple stakeholders with diverse insights and strengths.

Positive community safety and crime prevention outcomes require coordination and collaboration between service providers, funding, and legislative agencies during the designing, implementation and delivery of programs and services, as well as diligent accountability by service providers for their respective program delivery outcomes.

<p>The role of Council Local Government is well placed to lead community crime prevention initiatives and address issues that affect local amenity and quality of life.</p>	<p>The role of the community The actions of community members can affect positive change to address local safety and crime issues. Everyone's contributions include:</p>
<p>Provider <i>Deliver services and programs to meet the needs of the community where Council has a direct influence.</i></p>	<p>Know your neighbours <i>Neighbours can be each other's security allies. They can keep an eye on property and report suspicious behaviour.</i></p>
<p>Leader <i>Act as leader and identify key community safety issues that stakeholders should respond to.</i></p>	<p>Know your community <i>Watching out for, support or assist vulnerable members in the community when needed.</i></p>
<p>Collaborator <i>Support and work in partnership with stakeholders to deliver benefits to the community that improve the sense of wellbeing in the Dubbo Region.</i></p>	<p>Know when to report <i>If you witness a crime or suspicious activity, take the time to report it to the appropriate authority.</i></p>
<p>Advocator <i>Ensure major priorities from the community are known and promoted to other decision-making bodies, including Federal Government, State Government, local agencies, and organisations.</i></p>	<p>Get informed <i>There are many online resources available to help you improve your safety, security and to prevent injury. Be on the look-out for workshops in your area.</i></p>
	<p>Use your voice <i>Report any public maintenance issues such as lighting faults and graffiti. The look and feel of an area can impact perceptions of safety.</i></p>

Visit DRC&ME to report lighting faults and graffiti: eservice.dubbo.nsw.gov.au



or scan the QR code

What Dubbo crime data tell us

While the Dubbo Region is generally a safe place, like all Council areas, some level of criminal activity is experienced. Understanding the crime profile for our region allows Dubbo Regional Council (Council) and our partners to evaluate the types of crime and the associated patterns of crime activity to better differentiate between actual crime and community perceptions. The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) provides quarterly reports on insights into crime trends, issues, and concerns. These crime statistics provide information on crime activity that had occurred, and which had been reported to authorities. It does not provide the full picture of the underlying causes and triggers that have led to reported crime, nor does it provide information on future crime activity.

In developing this plan Council referred to BOCSAR reports available at the time and sought deeper insights into the Dubbo Region's crime profile through a workshop presented by a Senior Analyst from BOCSAR. Future BOCSAR reports will be consulted to ensure that the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan remains current.

The top five types of offences for the Dubbo Local Government Area reported by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) are:

1. Motor vehicle theft
2. Break and enter non-dwelling
3. Non-domestic related assault
4. Malicious damage to property
5. Disorderly conduct

Examples of BOCSAR maps that relate to Dubbo



This map indicates areas where a higher incidence of non-domestic assault has been reported (January 2023 to December 2023) and corresponds with information received through community feedback in terms of locations where anti-social behaviour is a concern.



This map indicates areas where incidents of motor vehicle thefts have been reported (January 2023 - December 2023)

BOCSAR reports are available to anyone who is interested via the BOCSAR website following this link: www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au

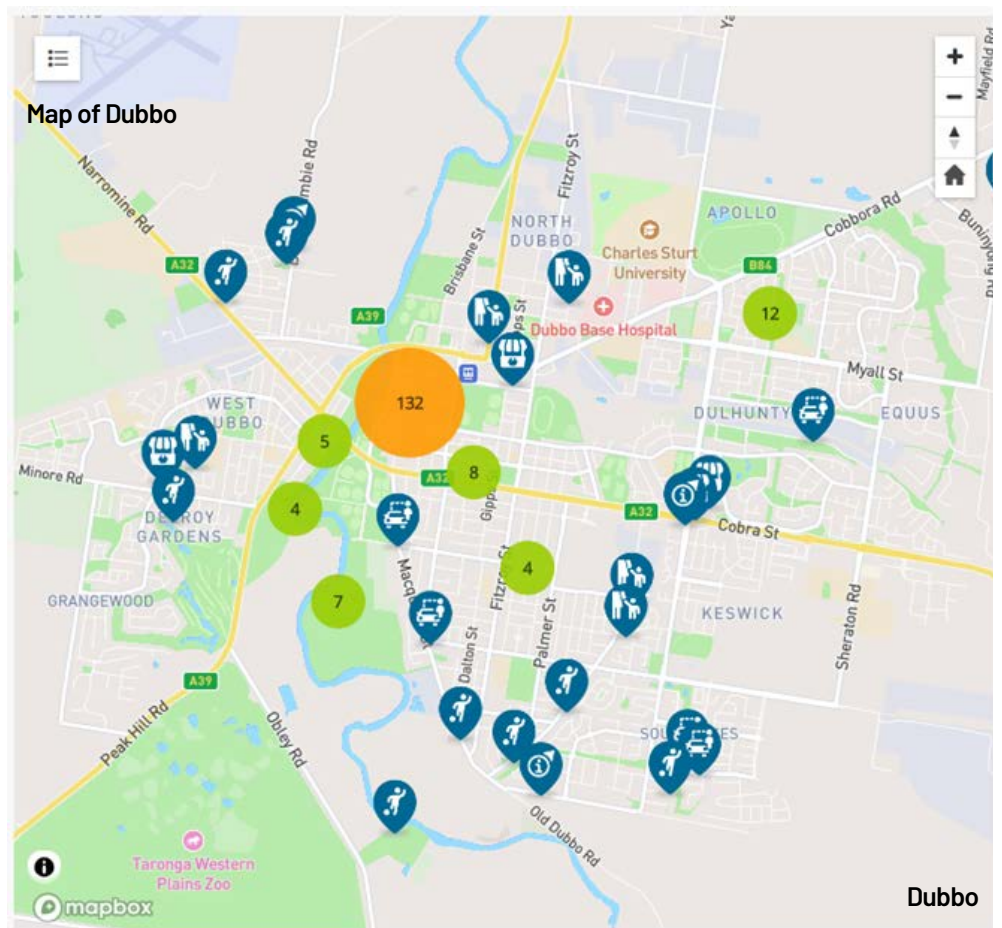


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What our community told us

In 2024, Council gained valuable insights from the community through various engagement activities, including the Community Insights and Input surveys and the Community Safety and Crime Prevention consultations. These activities helped shape the focus areas for this plan.

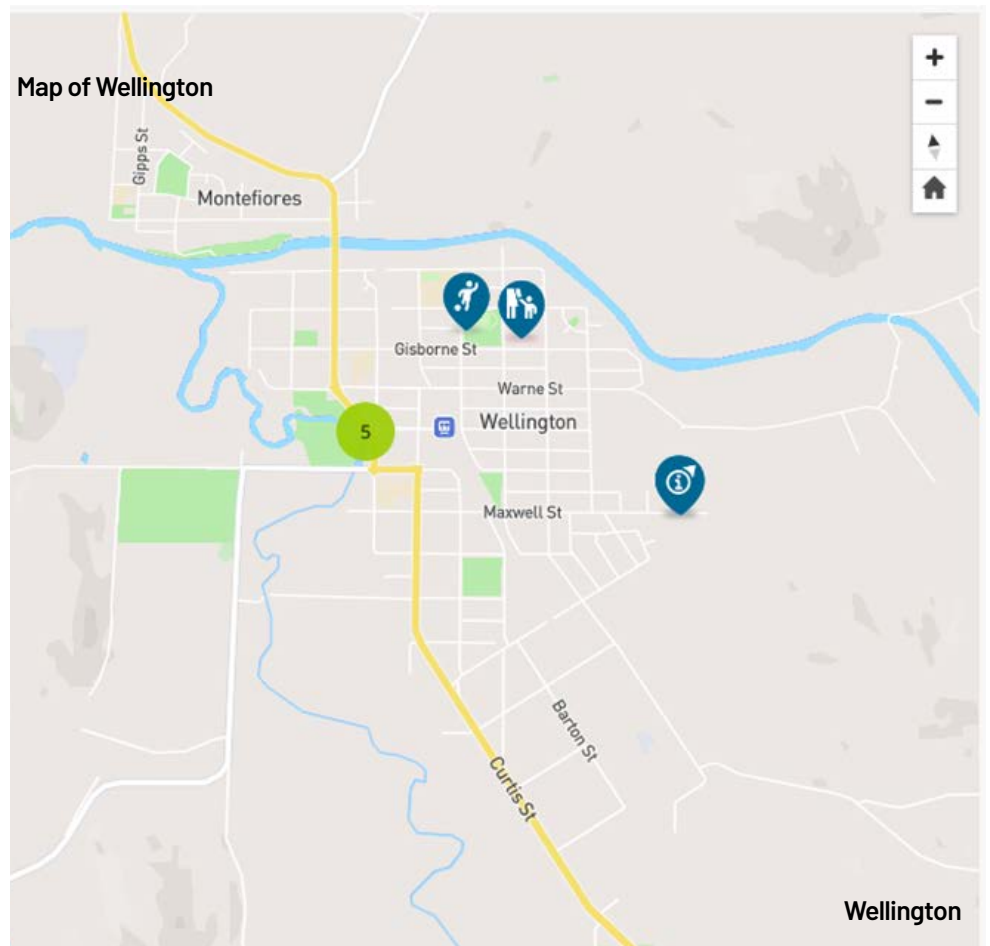
Our community told Council that key public issues, such as community safety, crime prevention, homelessness, and the need for increased police presence were the top priorities for the future. Through this plan, we acknowledge the need to enhance perceptions of our Local Government Area as a safe place to live, work, and play, as well as to foster a sense of harmony, cohesion, and inclusivity across our community.



Most safety concerns were identified in the Dubbo CBD, especially Macquarie Street.

Key to maps:

Orange and green dots indicate areas where high numbers of pin drops made by community members resulted in clusters. Blue icons indicate individual pin drops made by community members.



Safety concerns were identified in the vicinity of Cameron Park.

What our community told us (continued)

Community members participating in the Community Safety and Crime Prevention survey's pin drop mapping activity identified a total of 217 locations in the Local Government Area. The majority of the locations were identified in Dubbo (201), primarily within the Central Business District. In Wellington nine locations were identified and the remaining across our Villages (refer to mapping images).

The community responses to the pin drop mapping activity indicated that they viewed Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and lighting interventions as deterrents in addressing their concerns about their safety, especially after dark. Perceiving public spaces as well-maintained would improve visibility, make places more accessible and more attractive locations to visit and enjoy. Concerns about anti-social behaviour and feelings of vulnerability as female residents were also highlighted by pin drop respondents. Additional vision statements by community members informed Council about the perceptions and thoughts of the community regarding community safety and crime prevention.



Safety concerns from areas identified on the pin drop map activity included:

- Anti-social behaviour
- After dark feels unsafe
- Feeling vulnerable as a female resident



The concerns prevent me from:

- Parking my car
- Shopping
- Walking/running or exercise



Interventions identified to improve these concerns included:

- CCTV
- Lighting
- Maintenance and upkeep



Community said "I want..."

“ To feel safe as a female in the community ”

“ A sense of trust and support among neighbours ”

“ To shop, live and enjoy leisure without fear of anti-social behaviour ”

“ To be able to walk freely and safely in any area without fear ”

“ To feel safe to walk down the main street ”

“ To exercise at night with the benefit of well-lit exercise areas ”

“ To know I can park my car safely on a street ”

“ To access public spaces and feeling safe outside my home after dark ”

“ To be proud to welcome tourists to my region ”

“ To walk during the day and early evening/morning with confidence for my safety ”

“ I am an older person. I should be able to go to Macquarie Street without the fear of being knocked over ”

“ To feel safe in our homes, in our streets, while shopping and accessing local facilities ”

“ A safe community where all socio-economic, ethnic, disabled and gender groups face minimal risk to their person, family, and property ”

“ A safe community where everyone feels secure, respected and protected ”

“ A safe and connected community that is like a woven tapestry – individual threads coming together to create something beautiful ”

“ To be able to go for a walk around my neighbourhood without feeling unsafe ”



Community said "We need..."

CCTV in a variety of places

Public spaces that are accessible and well cared for

Town CBDs that are bright and clean

A larger police presence in the CBD and carparks at nighttime

Public spaces that are well lit

Youth to be held accountable for vandalism

Perpetrators of repeated violent offences not to be granted bail

A safe community requires engagement of citizens, Council and police to work collaboratively

Local criminal justice system, local government, regional health services and for at-risk groups to work together

Transport, especially after dark

A place for troubled youth to go to feel safe

A bigger police presence

A youth drop-in facility with mentors, counsellors, sports, activities and links to services, a place to be

Brighter street lighting

More police presence and patrols at night 2-6am

Camps to be removed from river- I don't like walking down there anymore by myself

More streetlights so I can run on a well-lit street early in the morning

Playgrounds that are free of needles and broken glass

Community expects the Plan to...



Community expects Council staff to...

Implement and lead actions that will address reported community concerns and which will lead to positive outcomes for their perceptions of safety in public spaces and places.

Focus areas

It was through 12 months of holistic community and stakeholder consultation, that a diverse range of information was collected which set the direction of the Plan, with three distinct focus areas.

These focus areas have been identified with supporting objectives, actions and outcomes.



Focus Area 1:
Creating safe public spaces and places

- Reduce opportunities for crime and antisocial behaviour through urban and environmental design and placemaking in public spaces
- Investigate opportunities to improve crime deterrents



Focus Area 2:
Building partnerships and participation

- Increase safety awareness and participation with vulnerable people
- Maintain and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders, state agencies and authorities
- Facilitate and coordinate networks to support strategic action for the region



Focus Area 3:
Community education and awareness

- Encourage neighbourhood and community connectivity
- Encourage community engagement and capacity through information sharing



Activating the plan

As a local government body, Council commits to playing a leadership role within the community it represents and can therefore advocate and collaborate to influence service providers and agencies active in the region.

Council can also ensure that the care of its public spaces follows a well-considered design and implementation program to promote community safety and to reduce the opportunity for criminal activity to occur.

Council's active roles as a **Provider, Leader, Collaborator** and **Advocate** are applied through various pathways that will ensure positive outcomes for community safety and crime prevention.

As a **Provider** and **Leader** Council has direct influence over urban planning and maintenance, provision and management of infrastructure and well-designed open public spaces. Carefully designed and well cared for streets and public spaces contribute to a sense of wellbeing and safety for people using them, facilitate opportunities for social connection between people and reduce the likelihood of crime occurring.

Council can enhance actual and perceived safety through:

- Applying situational crime prevention strategies when developing and managing public spaces.
- Ensuring compliance with legislation is adhered to in areas such as planning, traffic management, and responsible ownership of animals.
- Installing and maintaining effective lighting and CCTV networks, well designed and maintained parks, roads, and footpaths, and appropriate management of waste and graffiti.
- Contributing to positive community safety and health outcomes by establishing alcohol and smoke free zones.
- Sensitive and thoughtful open space infrastructure placement and provision that reflects community needs and best practice principles.

As a **Collaborator**, Council can:

- Support and partner with key stakeholders to deliver positive benefits for community safety and crime prevention in the region to promote growth and prosperity of the community it represents.
- Collaborate with local Police to create and disseminate awareness information on crime prevention and community safety.
- Increase community awareness of services available to them with the goal of providing better support, connections and outcomes for people experiencing vulnerable circumstances.
- Maintain and promote effective communication between Council and community members via established Council communication channels such as Customer Experience contact, YourSay, DRC&ME, Council's website, and social media channels.

As an **Advocate**, Council can ensure that major priority community concerns are known and communicated to the relevant bodies, such as the judicial system, NSW State Government, and Australian Federal Government.

Actions table

Focus Area 1: Creating safe public spaces and places

Key: CCP: Community Culture and Places SPE: Strategy Partnerships and Engagement IN: Infrastructure

Action	Responsible Division	Role of Council	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029
1.1 Develop a management framework for the Dubbo CBD and Wellington Town Centre identifying current locational boundaries, key asset ownership and responsibilities.	SPE	Leader	●			
1.2 Undertake a street furniture audit of the Dubbo CBD and Wellington Town Centre. Review the audit findings, in consultation with asset owners and service providers, to develop recommendations that reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviours and pedestrian harassment. The review will consider alignment with other Council Plans such as the Disability and Inclusion Action Plan and Economic Development Action Plan.	CCP	Provider	●			
1.3 Undertake a survey of the current lighting operations of the open space network and key identified areas, which provides a high-level summary of the lighting status, regime and identified planned/future works/scheduled maintenance.	CCP	Provider	●			
1.4 Undertake a survey of the current lighting levels in the Dubbo CBD and identified areas* of safety concern, which provides a high-level summary of the lighting status, ownership and identified planned/future works/scheduled maintenance.	IN	Provider		●		
1.5 Assess Council public amenities against safety by design standards and best practice principles with the finalised report to identify improvement areas, estimated costs and prioritised recommendations.	CCP	Provider	●			
1.6 Assess Council managed open spaces to identify areas of improvement, estimated costs and prioritised recommendations. Transport for NSW Safer Cities Program standard and best practice principles to inform recommendations.	CCP	Provider		●		
1.7 Actions and objectives of the Cultural Plan 2025 are considered alongside Council's other plans to ensure that activation of public spaces in the Dubbo CBD and Wellington Town Centre are strategically aligned.	CCP	Leader		●	●	●
1.8 Undertake a feasibility study for the provision of public phone charging stations in suitable public spaces and locations.	CCP	Provider		●		
1.9 Undertake a review of the CCTV Management Policy and develop a strategic program which considers future use of the CCTV network in line with other plans and strategies.	CCP	Provider	●		●	
1.10 Identify and map Council owned and managed car parks in Dubbo and Wellington, by undertaking a safety audit. The finalised report must provide recommendations to address matters identified in the safety audit.	CCP	Provider	●			

Action	Responsible Division	Role of Council	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029
1.11 Conduct a survey of current signage in Dubbo CBD and Wellington Town Centre to inform Council's approach to wayfinding and to ensure consistent messaging.	CCP	Provider			●	
1.12 Develop and roll-out Child Safe Standard Policy and Child Safe Standard Code of Conduct eLearning for all Council employees, which includes a refresher program.	CCP	Leader	●	●	●	●
1.13 Develop a protocol for responding to homelessness and antisocial behaviour in spaces and places that are owned by Council.	CCP	Leader		●		
1.14 Develop a Graffiti Response Management Policy.	CCP	Leader			●	
1.15 As part of ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the Plan: individual geographic points of safety concern from the 'drop-pin' exercise are surveyed annually to report on the action/s taken to address safety concerns. (*Identified areas)	CCP	Leader		●	●	
1.16 Develop a Dubbo CBD Strategy with the intent to give direction to Council planning and amenity provision.	CCP	Provider			●	
1.17 Investigate the feasibility of designating Dubbo CBD and Wellington Town Centres as 'smoke free zones'.	CCP	Leader			●	

Focus Area 2: Building partnerships and participation

Key: CCP: Community Culture and Places SPE: Strategy Partnerships and Engagement IN: Infrastructure

Action	Responsible Division	Role of Council	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029
2.1 Establish a Community Safety and Crime Prevention Reference Group, including a charter and appropriate reporting mechanisms.	CCP	Leader	●			
2.2 Develop a resource document for business owners in relation to community safety and crime prevention which identifies the role of Council and channels to share insights.	SPE	Leader	●			
2.3 Develop and implement a Youth Action Plan.	CCP	Leader	●			
2.4 Investigate opportunities to improve perceptions of public safety in shopping centres and business venues through collaboration with key stakeholders.	SPE	Advocate	●			
2.5 Work with Transport for NSW and local Taxi service providers to identify and investigate feasibility and suitability of community safety matters in the Dubbo CBD specifically after-hours popular collection points.	CCP	Collaborator			●	

Action	Responsible Division	Role of Council	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029
2.6 Undertake targeted user group consultation to inform the development of a Nocturnal Exercise Strategy. The strategy should respond to community needs and consider sustainable networks of illuminated routes/locations for nocturnal exercise.	CCP	Leader	●			
2.7 Public spaces and places are designed with the application of Transport for NSW Safer Cities Program, which has a focus on helping improve perceptions of safety by women, girls and gender diverse people.	CCP	Leader	●	●	●	●
2.8 Targeted communications are undertaken with property owners of vacant places that are known to accommodate and attract homeless and/or antisocial behaviours, and to advocate for appropriate actions to minimise undesired use.	CCP	Collaborator	●		●	



Focus Area 3: Community education and awareness

Key: CCP: Community Culture and Places SPE: Strategy Partnerships and Engagement IN: Infrastructure

Action	Responsible Division	Role of Council	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029
3.1 Develop and implement a program of 'evergreen messaging' regarding community safety matters that are relevant and applicable to the Local Government Area. Partner with Government and Non-government stakeholders to reinforce messages of local priority.	CCP	Collaborator	●	●	●	●
3.2 Collaborate with sharing service operators in adhering to the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 (and associated regulations). Primary focus on efficient collection of shopping trollies from public streets.	SPE	Collaborator		●		
3.3 Explore feasible options to disseminate a services register to assist community members in finding local service providers.	CCP	Collaborator	●			

Measuring progress

Measuring and reporting on the action plan helps everyone understand how the region is progressing in delivering improved community safety and crime prevention outcomes. In addition to internal quarterly updates, an annual report will be developed and provided to community. These reports will track progress, inform future bodies of work and will support evidence-based decision making.

The Community Insights biennial survey provides quantifiable community insights on Council's services and living within the Dubbo Region. These figures are analysed and assessed against Council's corporate measures in a broader regional and environmental context to inform our priorities and actions.

The LGA is a safe place to live, work and play.	2024 37%	2022 70%	2019 78%
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Status	Version	Author	Date	Changes
Endorsed	1.0	Rusan Hill	March 2025	

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