



2023-2027

Community Safety Plan



Welcome

Welcome to Penrith City Council's Community Safety Plan 2023–2027.

This Plan outlines Council's approach to creating safe, welcoming places with connected communities. In developing this Plan we have listened to the experiences of our community, researched current trends and data, and collaborated with residents and other partners to develop actions that Council commits to delivering over the coming four years.

Council would like to thank the following groups and organisations for their contribution to the development of this Plan:

- Baptist Care Hope Street
- Johnny H
- LikeMind
- Needle and Syringe Program Nepean
Blue Mountains Local Health District
- Nepean Police Aboriginal Consultative Committee
- Nepean Area Disabilities Organisation
- Nepean Community and Neighbourhood Services
- Nepean Domestic Violence Network
- Nepean Police Area Command
- Penrith CBD Corporation
- Penrith Homelessness Interagency
- Penrith Multicultural Interagency
- Penrith Youth Interagency
- St Marys Town Centre Corporation
- TAFE NSW
- WestCare Community Services
- Western Sydney University.



Statement of Recognition

Council values the unique status of Aboriginal people as the original owners and custodians of lands and waters, including the land and waters of Penrith City.

Council values the unique status of Torres Strait Islander people as the original owners and custodians of the Torres Strait Islands and surrounding waters.

We work together for a united Australia and City that respects this land of ours, that values the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage and provides justice and equity for all.



Contents

Welcome	2
Statement of Recognition	3
1. Introduction	5
1.1 Background	5
1.2 What is community safety	5
1.3 Our vision and priorities	6
1.4 What is a Community Safety Plan?	6
1.5 Council's role and approach to community safety	7
1.6 How does this Community Safety Plan align with Council's planning and strategic priorities?	8
1.7 Understanding Penrith	10
1.8 Community Strengths	12
2. How we developed the Community Safety Plan	13
2.1 What does Penrith's Crime Profile data tell us?	15
2.2 Who did we hear from?	16
2.3 What did our community and stakeholders tell us?	17
2.4 Key community safety priorities	21
3. Action Plan	23
Appendix: Penrith Crime Profile	34



1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Ensuring community safety is a high priority as our community grows and changes.

Penrith City Council's Community Safety Plan 2023–2027 (the Plan) guides our approach to community safety over the next four years.

It builds on the foundations of Council's four previous Community Safety Plans and outlines actions we will take in collaboration with community partners to create safe, welcoming and vibrant places where we all want to live, work and play.

This Plan is informed by research and evidence gathered through community and stakeholder consultation and data from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Nepean Police Area Command.

1.2 What is community safety?

A safe community is a place where people can go about daily life being and feeling safe, with easy access to the things they need and with opportunities to positively engage with other people.

We know that feeling safe is not always linked to crime and that many factors help us feel safe, like knowing our neighbours, easily finding our way around, and knowing who to call when we need help.

Creating safe communities involves building community connections, enhancing the built environment, reducing opportunities for crime, and working in collaboration with community partners to foster places where we feel safe.

1.3 Our vision and priorities

This Plan outlines Council's commitment to ensuring the Penrith Local Government Area (LGA) is safe and welcoming.

Our vision is to create safe, welcoming and vibrant places where all people want to live, work and play.

Our priority focus areas for the next four years are:



Thriving
People



Safe and Welcoming
Public Spaces



Partnerships

1.4 What is a Community Safety Plan?

A Community Safety Plan responds to the unique characteristics of a place and the diverse people who live in and visit that place. Every community has strengths and challenges.

This Plan includes strategies and actions that aim to foster the safety of our community members at home and in public spaces.

Under the NSW Government Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997, local government is identified as the lead agency for identifying and implementing local crime prevention strategies in NSW.

Councils can include actions in Community Safety Plans that address targeted and situational responses and broader, flexible strategies that respond to new and emerging concerns.

Community Safety Plans commonly focus on social cohesion, crime prevention, alcohol and other drug management, family support, youth development, community consultation, and reporting requirements.

This Plan is focused on preventing crime and violence, creating safe public spaces, and increasing the capacity of the community to know what to do if they ever feel unsafe or need to report a crime.

Community safety is a priority across Council. Other important safety issues, like road safety, water or fire safety, emergency service response, and child protection, are areas that Council actively addresses in partnership with other government services, organisations and communities. However, these issues are not the focus of this Plan.

1.5 Council's role and approach to community safety

This Plan builds on the understanding that community safety begins with strong, connected, informed communities.

Creating safe communities requires a broad range of approaches - from improving the built environment to working with vulnerable communities and providing opportunities for people to connect.

Council acknowledges that working together with community partners achieves better safety outcomes. Our community partners include local businesses, support services, community organisations, and other government agencies.

Council convenes the Penrith Community Safety Partnership, a committee of Council that brings representatives from various organisations together, including NSW Police, to identify and address community safety issues and to monitor the implementation of the Plan.

Further details on the role Councils play in creating safe communities are provided in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1 – The role that local government plays in creating safe communities



Leadership

Embed community safety outcomes into relevant plans, strategies and policies.



Advocacy

Advocate other government agencies to strengthen public policy and funding.



Impact Measurement

Measure the outcomes of community safety initiatives to understand the level of impact.



Partnerships

Lead partnerships, connect with and coordinate stakeholders to deliver meaningful initiatives.



Service Provision

Deliver services and programs which build safer places and connected communities.



Infrastructure

Maintain quality public spaces and apply Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).



Support

Provide funding and in-kind support to assist organisations to deliver safety initiatives.



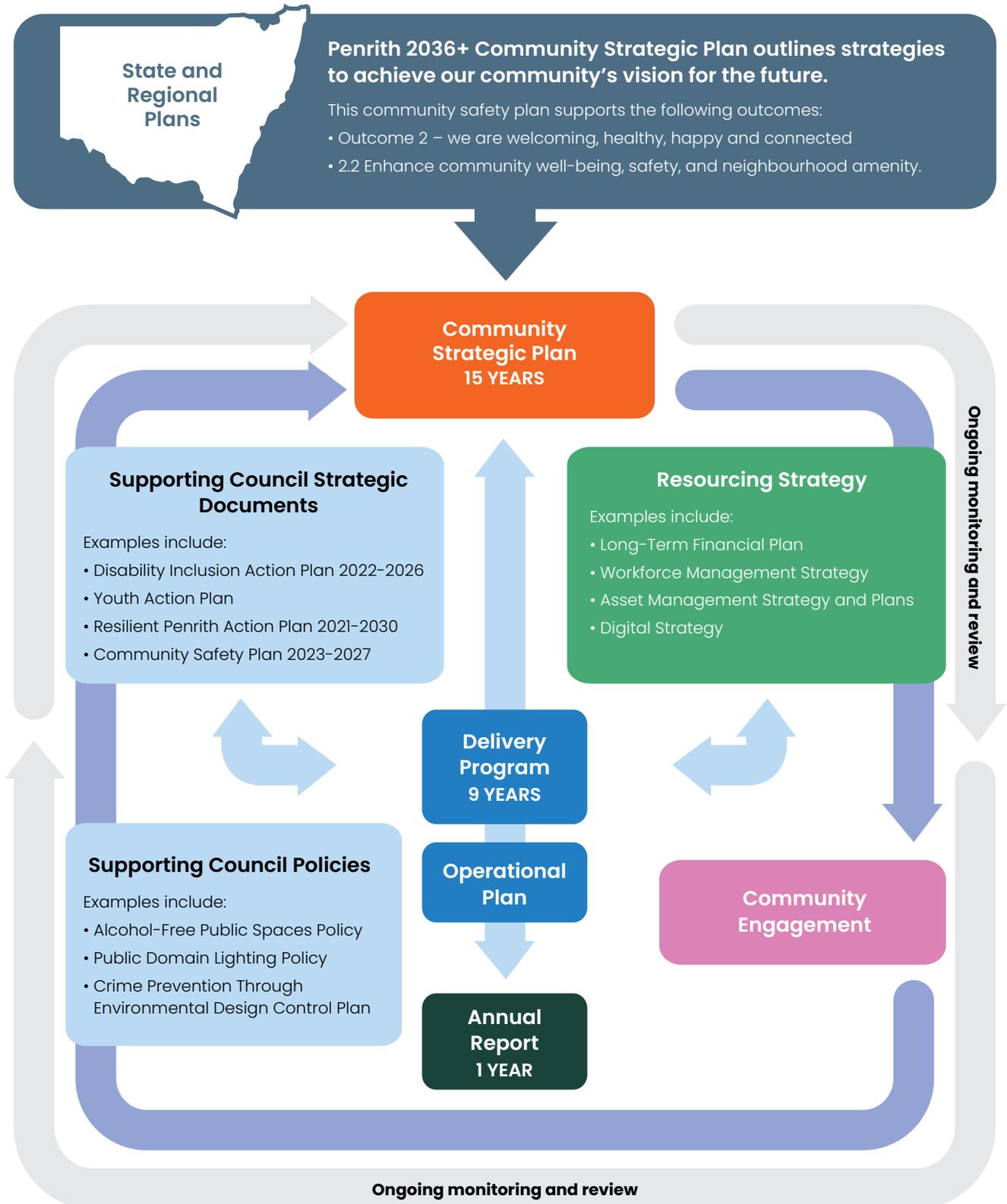
Education and capacity building

Equip people with the knowledge and skills to understand safety matters and take action.

1.6 How does the Community Safety Plan align with

Council's planning and strategic priorities?

FIGURE 2 – Council's strategic document hierarchy

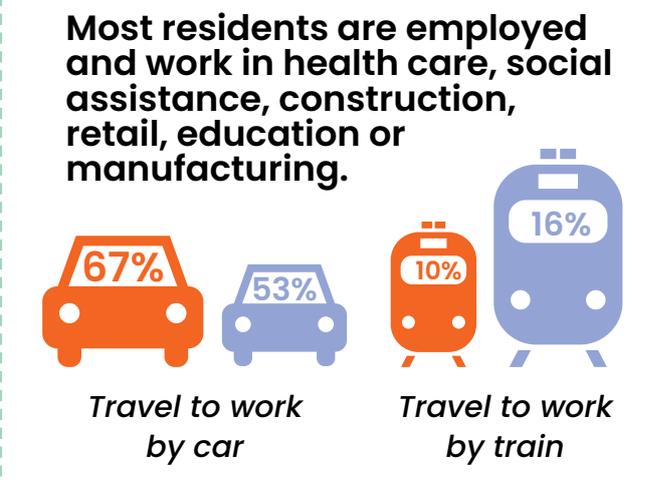
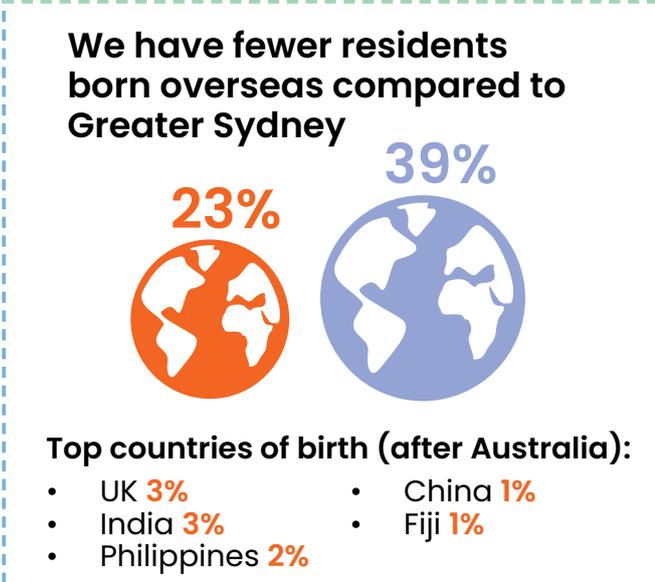
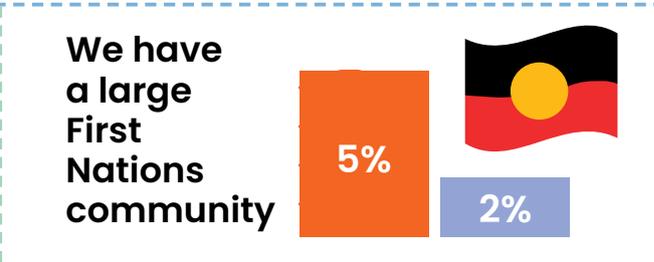
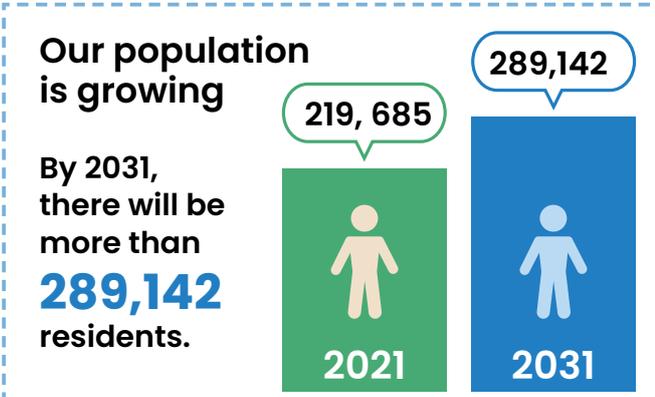




1.7 Understanding Penrith

This section provides a snapshot of people and place characteristics across the Penrith LGA. All data is based on ABS 2021 Census data sourced from profile.id.

SOURCE: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census data & Population Forecast .id community



We have **more socioeconomic disadvantage** than the national and Greater Sydney average



1.8 Community strengths

We have increasing diversity.

Diversity is a strength, bringing the wisdom of many cultures and life experiences.

The number of people identifying as First Nations living in Penrith is increasing. Data from the 2021 Census shows that 5% of the Penrith population, or 10,928 people, identify as First Nations, which represents a significant population group.

We are also becoming increasingly culturally diverse, with 23% of our residents born overseas. This is an increase of 8,466 people since 2016.

We are young.

Our community is young, with approximately 25% of our residents under 18 years.

Young people bring innovative ideas, as well as energy and time to initiatives that build a stronger society for the future.

Young people who are valued as active contributors are more likely to serve their area and become local leaders.

A culture of intergenerational cooperation, trust, and respect increases community safety and civic pride.

We are community-focused.

Our community cares for one another and is proud to live in the Penrith LGA.

We can tap into the existing high levels of community connection to people and places to strengthen social cohesion and welcome new residents.

We are well located.

Penrith's location at the foot of the Blue Mountains offers fresh air, open space and a natural environment. Added to this are high-quality amenities and services that support our community, including the Nepean Hospital, Nepean-Penrith TAFE, and Western Sydney University.

Penrith is strategically positioned to capitalise on city-shaping developments bringing new jobs and investment to the region including the new Western Sydney International Airport, Quarter Health and Education Precinct and Sydney Science Park.



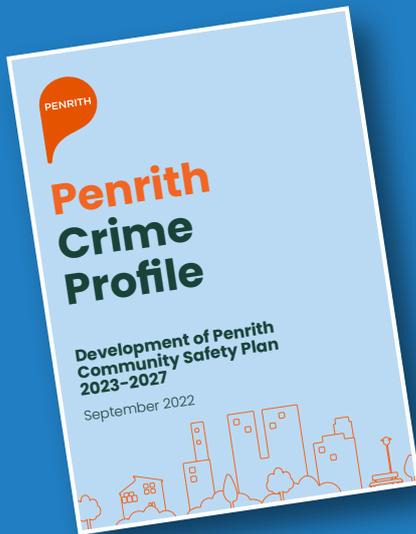


2. How we developed the Community Safety Plan

This Plan is informed by research and evidence, including an analysis of local crime data and consultation with our community and key stakeholders.

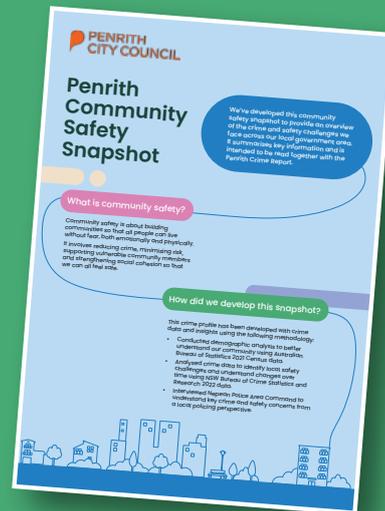
Penrith Crime Profile Report

Conducted research to collect evidence about crime and community safety matters in our LGA.



Penrith Community Safety Snapshot

Summarised the community safety challenges that we face across our LGA.



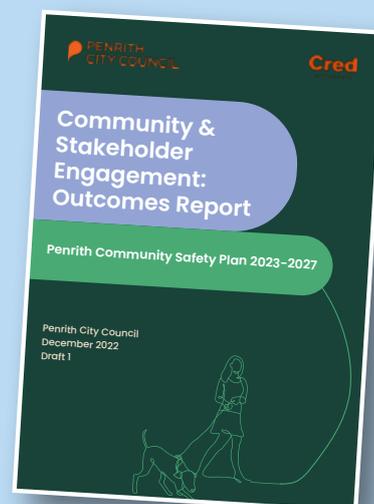
Community Safety Strategies Research Report

Researched successful models and evidence-based approaches to improving community safety.



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Program

Captured the views of people and stakeholders, including people that live, work or visit our LGA.



2.1 What does Penrith's Crime Profile data tell us?

To understand current local crime and safety concerns, we analysed NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) 2022 data and held interviews with the Nepean Police Area Command.

Key findings from this research tell us:

- Many crimes are opportunistic, like stealing from a retail store, vandalism or fraud.
- Domestic and family violence remains a priority concern in homes across the LGA.
- Alcohol and other drug use is a key contributing factor to the general occurrence of crime.
- Non-domestic violence related assault is more likely to occur at transport hubs and licensed premises, and theft is more common in retail settings.

A key observation offered by participating police officers is that the community are concerned about the mental health of their friends and neighbours. Poor mental health can negatively impact general well-being and social connection.

Overall, BOCSAR crime data shows a higher incidence of crime across various offence categories in the Penrith LGA compared to the average across NSW, as shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5 - Top nine offences in Penrith compared to NSW (rate of incident per 100,000 population)



2.2 Who did we hear from?

Between October and December 2022, we conducted community and stakeholder engagement to understand our community's safety priorities better. During this time, we spoke with 318 people.

We heard from a diverse range of people, including First Nations residents and services, people with disability, young people, local businesses and community services.

We connected with the community in-person and online across different areas of the LGA.

How we engaged with residents:

- Online survey
- Six pop-up engagement events
- Penrith Your Say webpage
- Information distribution to residents

How we engaged with stakeholders:

- Nine interviews with service providers
- Four interagency meetings
- Two business workshops
- Meeting with First Nations stakeholders
- Meeting with Nepean Police Area Command



2.3 What did our community tell us?

When and where people feel safe

We heard that people feel safe in our community during the day. Places where people feel safe, include our local shops, libraries, swimming pools, educational institutions, parks, town centres and new residential neighbourhoods.

However, this changes after dark, with people reporting feeling more unsafe at night particularly in our train stations, parks, residential streets, and laneways in our town centres.

Poor lighting, anti social behaviour, and people under the influence of alcohol and other drugs are common factors that make people feel unsafe at night.

We note that people have different experiences and perceptions of safety. Some people feel safe in a location, while others feel unsafe.

Figure 4 - Places in the Penrith LGA where people feel safe during the day and unsafe during the night



Ideas to improve community safety

You told us that to improve community safety in the Penrith LGA, you would like to see:

Better and increased lighting

Pedestrian-friendly environments

Greater police presence

Cleaner streets and public spaces

More services to support people who are vulnerable

Community-based crime prevention initiatives

More places to gather and connect

More events, programs and street activations

Improved relationships between police and vulnerable groups of people

Our stakeholders told us that to improve community safety in the Penrith LGA, they would like to see:

Improved access to affordable services

Reduced numeracy and literacy divide

More understanding about the challenges that some communities face

More First Nations staff in support roles

Positive local role models in outreach positions

More programs for vulnerable communities

More collaboration between stakeholders

More community education and campaigns

Community-led programs which reduce domestic and family violence

Safety concerns for particular groups within our community

Organisations providing support services in the Penrith LGA told us that some community members are more vulnerable than others and face greater safety challenges.

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

Research shows that some culturally diverse communities are reluctant to report crime or engage with police or government agencies. The reasons for this can be complex and may be attributed to their experience prior to or during migration, and can lead to underreporting for some groups.

Nearly one in five (19.6%) people in the Penrith LGA speak a language other than English, and the number of people who live in Penrith and were born overseas is increasing.

The Penrith Multicultural Interagency told us that community safety matters for culturally and linguistically diverse people in the Penrith LGA include:

- Limited understanding of the law and legal systems in the Australian context
- Stigma attached to reporting crime
- Language barriers
- Lack of trust in the police
- Experiences of intimidatory behaviour and racism in public spaces, specifically transport hubs.

People experiencing domestic and family violence

Recent data from the NSW Police reveals that the Nepean Police Area Command ranks highly in NSW for domestic violence incident reports.

Further advice from local community services and police indicates that domestic and family violence continues to be under-reported, highlighting a need for continued leadership and advocacy.

Local, NSW and Australia-wide statistics indicate domestic and family violence is gendered. The vast majority of victims are women, and the vast majority of perpetrators are men.

The Nepean Domestic Violence Network told us that key concerns for local people, primarily women, experiencing domestic and family violence include:

- Local services are under resourced which limits their ability to provide support
- Distrust of police and other services
- Funding cuts to relevant programs
- Lack of support services for people on temporary visas
- Alcohol and other drug use, mental health concerns and socioeconomic disadvantage
- Increasing cost of living contributing to household pressures and domestic and family violence.

People experiencing housing stress and at risk of homelessness

Research shows that people who are homeless are victims of crimes committed in public spaces more often than other community members.

The Penrith Homelessness Interagency told us that key community safety matters for people who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness locally include:

- Access to affordable housing
- Digital divide – increasingly accessing support is dependent on digital access, e.g. housing applications online
- The impact of the rising cost of living on housing security
- Food security – restricted access to reliable, healthy food specifically for low-income families
- Urban heat and its impact on health and wellbeing
- Increasing violence between rough sleepers
- Housing security and safety concerns for older residents living in social and affordable housing.

People with disability

In 2021, 12,041 people living in the Penrith LGA required assistance in their day-to-day lives due to disability. This represents 6% of our residents.

Research tells us that people with disability may experience higher violence, abuse and neglect rates than those without disability.

People with disability may face additional barriers to accessing public spaces and participating in community life. This may be due to limited personal mobility or the inaccessibility of public spaces and programs.

Suburbs with a greater proportion of people with a need for assistance in our LGA include North St Marys (9.1%), Penrith (8.5%), St Marys (7.2%) and Kingswood (6.9%).

Young people

Overall, Penrith LGA is a young community with a higher proportion of people under 18 (24.9%) than in Greater Sydney (21.9%). In 2021, 12.0% of young people were not employed or participating in education. This is higher than the Greater Sydney average of 8.9%.

The Nepean Police Area Command highlighted boredom as a contributing factor to the general occurrence of crime locally and that young people disengaged from school and other community supports are more likely to participate in opportunistic crime.

The Penrith Youth Interagency told us that their critical concerns for the safety of local young people include:

- Growing mental health concerns
- Lack of safe, affordable spaces for young people, especially at night
- Increase in young people exhibiting 'gang' behaviour
- Increasing friction between young people and police
- Young people, specifically First Nations youth, experiencing racism in public spaces and community
- Young people identifying as LGBTQIA+ experiencing isolation and exclusion in family and community
- Online safety and cyberbullying.

First Nations peoples

Our community is proudly home to one of the largest and growing First Nations communities in urban Australia (5% of our population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander compared to 2% in Greater Sydney).

The Nepean Police Aboriginal Consultative Committee shared community safety concerns for First Nations peoples in Penrith, including:

- Access to safe, appropriate housing
- Housing instability and risk of homelessness
- Access to culturally sensitive mental health services and groups
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Domestic and family violence
- Antisocial behaviour and community impact surrounding illegal trail bike riding.

First Nations community workers we spoke to raised concerns regarding:

- Lived experiences of over-policing
- First Nations adults and young people requiring support through local courts
- Need for community-led responses to criminal justice matters
- Need to sustain men's programs.

There are many organisations and groups working to support the wellbeing of First Nations people, and we are mindful of other relevant strategies and plans that support safety outcomes and which influence our work. These include:

- The Nepean PAC Police and Aboriginal Consultative Committee Aboriginal Action Plan
- Australian Local Government Association Closing the Gap Implementation Plan

2.4 Key community safety priorities

This section summarises the key community safety priorities identified through research and conversations with our local community.

Our community safety priorities give focus to the actions we can take to improve our residents' wellbeing and infrastructure in public spaces.

The challenges are complex and interrelated and cannot be addressed by Council alone. Change can be made through partnerships with the community, other government agencies, and businesses.



Improved lighting

Community members told us that lighting is a major safety concern, especially in parks, laneways, and car parks.



Antisocial behaviour in public spaces

More than 82% of survey respondents reported feeling unsafe in public spaces due to other people's antisocial behaviour. This includes harassment, verbal and physical abuse, and intimidation and loitering. Streets, car parks and train stations are common public spaces where antisocial behaviour occurs.



Alcohol and other drug use and abuse

Alcohol and other drug use in public spaces is a key concern for our community.

Some people expressed concern about the wellbeing of people that use alcohol and other drugs, while others told us they feel unsafe around people under the influence of alcohol and other drugs.



Increase in poor mental health

Mental health is a growing concern in our community, especially for young people since the COVID-19 pandemic. Poor mental health coincides with other safety challenges, including domestic and family violence, substance abuse, and antisocial behaviour.

Some community members have told us they have found accessing culturally sensitive mental health services in the Penrith LGA difficult.



Social places for young people

Our consultation with the community highlighted the opportunity to provide public spaces for young people to socialise. Public spaces enable young people to exercise their bodies and minds, develop a support network and participate in civic life.

Some community members told us they can feel intimidated by groups of young people gathered in public spaces. This is something that should be carefully considered from both perspectives.



Capacity of support services

Local support services play a vital role in strengthening the community's wellbeing.

The local service system is under pressure, and resources are spread very thin; this means our residents sometimes are unable to access services when they are most needed.

Mental health, housing, settlement, and domestic violence services all report having to turn people away. For example, housing providers told us there is no available crisis accommodation in the area, and sometimes people must leave the area to secure housing.



Prevalence of domestic and family violence

Crime data tells us that reports of domestic and family violence are very high in the Penrith LGA compared to NSW. Factors contributing to domestic and family violence include alcohol and other drug misuse, poor mental health, socioeconomic disadvantage, and rising cost of living.

Caseworkers also told us that the Penrith LGA is home to many victim-survivors who have escaped domestic and family violence and relocated here. These residents need support services, social connections and social networks.





3. Action Plan

This Plan identifies priority actions for Council to take, in partnership with others, to improve community safety over the next four years.

Council will provide leadership, take direct action and advocate for a safe, connected community where all people can participate fully in community life.

This Plan captures the actions we are committed to continuing and identifies new, priority actions for Council to deliver with our partners in 2023-2027.

A note about our Community Safety team

Penrith City Council has had a team dedicated to Community Safety for around 20 years. This team works with staff across Council and with community partners to drive the implementation of the Community Safety Plan.

In addition to the actions described in the action plan our Community Safety Team also:

- Advocates for the community in response to safety concerns raised by local residents, businesses, and other community stakeholders
- Works with teams across Council to apply *CPTED and community safety principles to local urban design projects and planning processes
- Assesses development application (DA) referrals, applying CPTED and community safety principles, and refers to local Police for advice as required
- Provides training to support the community service sector and other areas of Council as required
- Works in partnership with Nepean Police Area Command (Police), responding to community safety matters
- Promotes community services, particularly local drug and alcohol support services
- Promotes cyber safety
- Works with local youth services to support early intervention and encourage intergenerational community connection

*CPTED Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is a set of ideas about how public places can be designed or improved to keep people safe.

PRIORITY AREA 1



Thriving People

Goal | Thriving communities

Penrith is a safe place where all people can thrive. We will know the people of our community are safe and thriving when there is strong social cohesion between residents; we have accessible support services and secure affordable housing.

Why thriving is important.

In safe and welcoming communities, people can thrive. People can grow and develop and participate in things that give them meaning. Some community members are vulnerable and have limited access to social and financial resources to address their safety concerns. Our community told us that access to crisis support, day-to-day community services, and social initiatives, which build a network of connections, are essential to get through difficult situations and to focus on things important to us.



PRIORITY AREA 1

Thriving People

This table outlines actions Council will take in 2023–2027 and how we will measure our performance.

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMEFRAME
1.1. Raise awareness and deliver actions to reduce domestic and family violence	1.1.a Host and expand participation in annual 16 Days of Activism events to raise awareness about violence against women and its impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of events held annually with growth in participation • Level of media coverage • Level of interaction with social media campaign 	Annual
	1.1.b Work with the Nepean Domestic Violence Network to deliver an annual forum that fosters collaborative action on the impacts of domestic and family violence within our community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual forum delivered with attendance from local services and action resulting 	Annual
	1.1.c Provide training for Council staff in customer facing roles, building their capacity to recognise, respond and refer people who may be experiencing domestic and family violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of training sessions delivered • Training pilot conducted with test group of Council staff 	2023–25
	1.1.d Review and update resources with information on local women and children’s services, including developing information in community languages and easy read formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral information updated and translated into five top community languages 	Annual
1.2. Support the capacity of local services to respond to domestic and family violence	1.2.a Support the Nepean Domestic Violence Network (NDVN) to advocate for positive change for people impacted by domestic and family violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDVN continues to build membership and hold an annual planning day • The NDVN develops an advocacy program 	Annual
	1.2.b Develop a small grants program for local organisations to deliver initiatives which reduce domestic and family violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A ‘safe communities’ grant program is developed and piloted over three years • Impact of the program is measured with recommendations developed regarding its effectiveness 	2023–26
	1.2.c Build the capacity of local services to respond in culturally responsive ways to people impacted by domestic and family violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of relevant guest presentations at Council led interagencies including NDVN • Number of First Nations partnership activities supporting sector development 	Annual

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMEFRAME
1.3. Support young people to feel safe and connected in their community	1.3.a Work with youth services and Penrith Youth Interagency to develop a guide to planning and delivering safe spaces for young people and deliver an associated pilot project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people are engaged in a process to articulate their public space needs • The information is developed into a guide for delivering public spaces that are young people and community friendly • A pilot project to engage young people in codesign of a public space is delivered 	2024-25 2025-26
	1.3.b Work with youth services and Penrith Youth Interagency to provide activities and events in public spaces that support the social needs of young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events are developed inclusive of the needs of young people in their delivery 	Annual
	1.3.c Review and update resources with information on services for young people, including developing information on healthy relationships in community languages and easy read formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral resources updated and translated into five top community languages • Resources on healthy relationships are sourced and promoted to local youth services 	Annual
	1.3.d Work with Penrith Youth Interagency, Nepean Police Area Command, Aboriginal-controlled organisations and relevant stakeholders to explore issues including youth offending and recidivism. Scope potential programs and support partners to attract funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder exploratory meetings held • Program scopes produced or opportunities identified • Instances of support for partner agencies seeking funding 	2024-2027
1.4 Contribute to positive mental health in our community	1.4.a Work with local health services to provide training that builds the capacity of local community services to recognise, respond and refer people for support with their mental health concerns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver two sector specific training sessions per year • Participants feel empowered to respond with positive support for people identifying mental health concerns 	Annual
	1.4.b Work with interagencies and health services to advocate for mental health outreach through programs such as the Village Café	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver four Village Café sessions per year with a focus on mental health support 	Annual
	1.4.c Actively promote and support community-led mental health initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instances of promotion through local service networks including First-Nations community-led initiatives 	Annual

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMEFRAME
1.5 Support access to safe and affordable housing	1.5.a Support community organisations to provide assertive outreach in locations with high rates of homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of referrals made 	Annual
	1.5.b Work with the Penrith Homelessness Interagency to establish data sharing and build proactive responses across all local interagencies to promote homelessness referral pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data sharing agreement • % of homelessness interagency members who feel confident in their understanding of referral pathways 	Agreement delivered 2024
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of other local interagency members who feel confident in their understanding of homelessness referral pathways 	Annual
	1.5.c Review and update resources with information on services for people at risk of homelessness as well as those requiring referral for emergency housing. Include information provided in community languages and easy read formats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources updated at least annually • Number of resources disseminated • Services report that the resources are well utilised 	Annual
1.5.d Develop an Affordable Housing Strategy and Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Housing Strategy delivered 	2023-24	



PRIORITY AREA 2

Safe and Welcoming Public Spaces



Goal | Safe and welcoming spaces

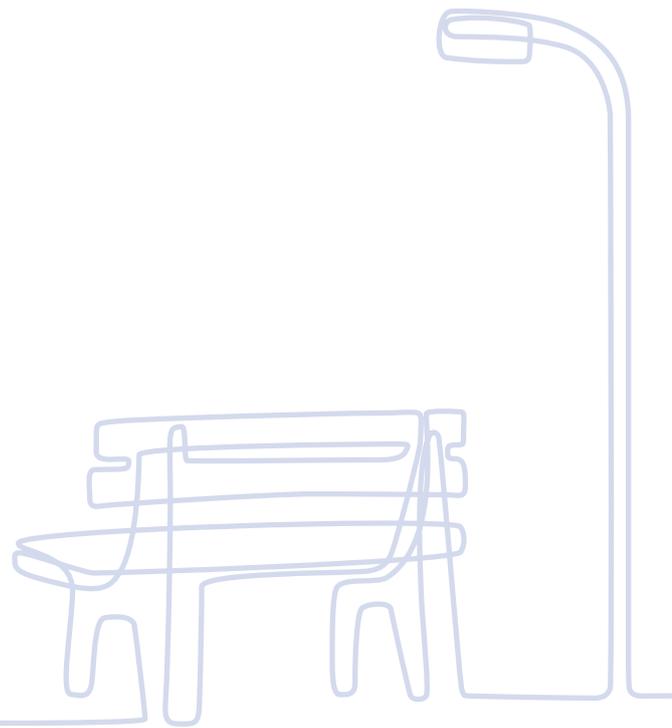
Penrith is a place where people feel safe and where public spaces look and feel welcoming.

We will know community members feel safe and welcome in public spaces when we receive positive feedback about new or improved spaces, when we see people using the spaces and facilities, through positive change in reports of antisocial behaviour and when our technical staff report professional satisfaction and pride with the lighting and maintenance services provided.

Why safe, welcoming spaces are important.

People feel more comfortable and welcome in safe, well-maintained, vibrant public spaces. These spaces enable us to safely connect with other people, maintain our physical and mental health, and travel from place to place free of fear.

All public space is important, however, we will pay special attention to the spaces most known to feel unsafe, such as transport hubs, town centres, laneways, and parks in residential areas.



OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMEFRAME
2.1. Improve lighting throughout Penrith LGA	2.1.a Prepare lighting studies for two key precincts to identify priorities and inform lighting upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study completed 	2023-25
	2.1.b Apply for grant funding to provide lighting in priority locations as identified in lighting study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of grant applications • % of successful grant applications 	2024-27

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMEFRAME
2.2 Provide safe, accessible, and welcoming public spaces	2.2.a Work with services and community leaders to develop activities that respond to the needs of vulnerable community groups where safety in public spaces is a concern. This includes women and girls, sexually and gender diverse people, young people, older people, rough sleepers, First Nations people and multicultural communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three activities delivered 	2023-26
	2.2.b Deliver a Safe Places Study providing technical assessment, lived experience knowledge, and prioritised list of recommendations with costings for priority sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to three priority locations identified • Up to three Safe Places Studies developed. • Community stakeholders are involved in site audits and identifying opportunities 	2023-24 2025-27
	2.2.c Advocate for improvements to infrastructure which is not owned by Council and which is aligned with the Safe Places Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of advocacy actions within Safe Places Study completed • % of advocacy actions which led to improvements 	2025-27
	2.2.d Apply for grants to deliver required works or pilot projects as identified in Safe Places Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of grant applications • % of successful applications 	2024-27
	2.2.e Build capacity of Council staff to incorporate community safety principles and understanding of vulnerable population groups in the design of public spaces (e.g., children and women)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building program delivered 	2025-27
2.3 Improve perceptions of safety at public transport interchanges	2.3.a Advocate and seek to partner with Transport for NSW for enhanced amenity and activation within key transport precincts, particularly at night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of representations to Transport for NSW • Number of activation activities delivered 	2024-25
2.4 Work with partners to deliver local events which increase community connection	2.4.a Support and deliver community events. Support resident-led gatherings in neighbourhoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of neighbourhood level Council-led events • Number of participants at Council-led events • Number of community service and resident-led events supported by Council within local neighbourhoods 	Annual
	2.4.b Deliver events and activities in partnership with City Centre Corporations to activate town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of events delivered by Council and its partners in city centres • Number of participants attending 	Annual

Partnerships for Safe Communities



Goal | Partnerships

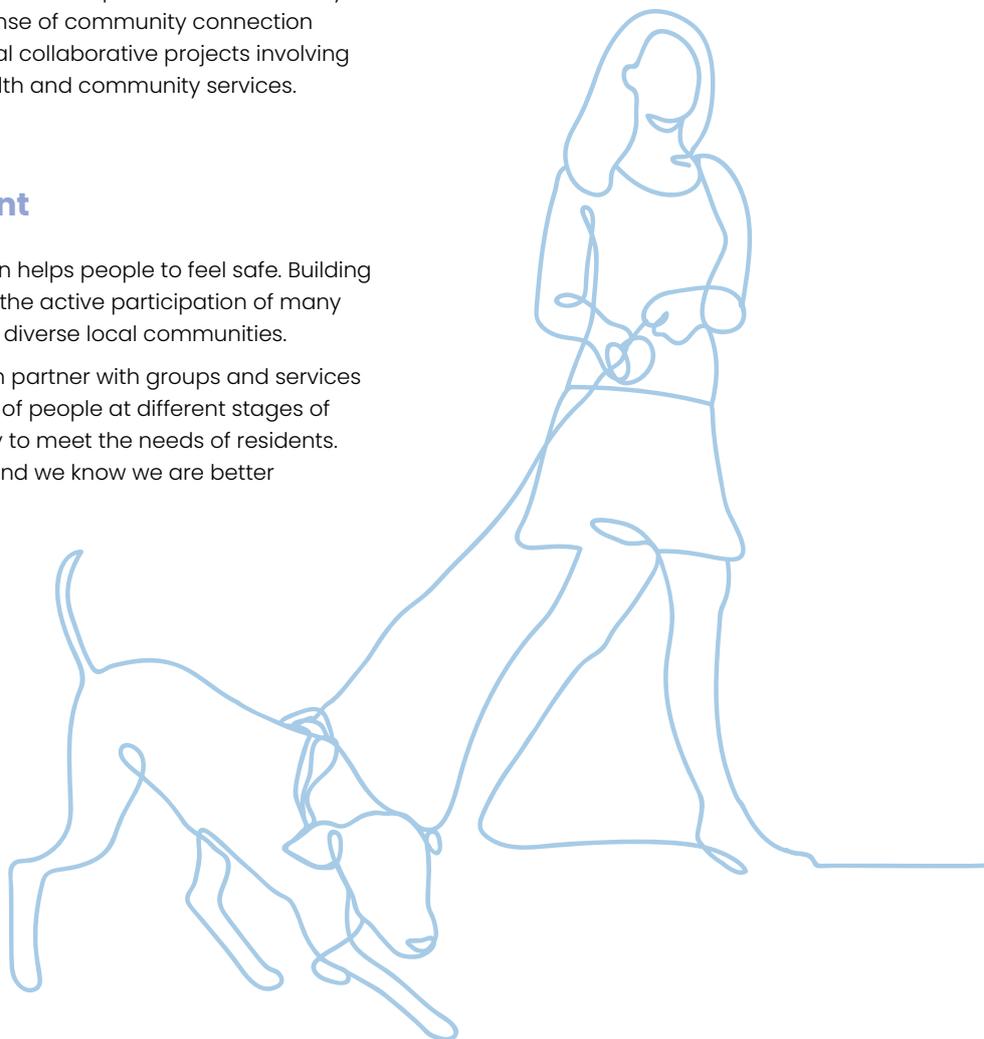
Collaboration and partnerships lead to the coordinated use of local resources, improved infrastructure, and the delivery of social outcomes that foster community safety.

We will know that our partnerships have a positive impact when community members tell us they have an improved sense of community connection and learn more about the outcomes of local collaborative projects involving Council, police, schools, youth services, health and community services.

Why partnership is important

Evidence shows that community connection helps people to feel safe. Building safe and connected communities requires the active participation of many stakeholders, each uniquely supporting our diverse local communities.

To improve safety for everyone, Council can partner with groups and services that have relationships with diverse groups of people at different stages of life. A strong network will increase our ability to meet the needs of residents. Community safety is everyone's business, and we know we are better together.



Partnerships for Safe Communities

This table outlines actions Council will take in 2023–2027 and how we will measure our performance.

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMEFRAME
3.1 Support local community services to contribute to safer communities	3.1.a Provide support and build sector capacity through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grant opportunities • interagency coordination and partnerships • sharing data, information, and resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of grant applications • % of successful grant applications • Number of interagency meetings • Number of capacity building sessions delivered • % of interagency members satisfied • Number of interagency members is sustained or increased • Number of community safety presentations at sector events. 	Ongoing
3.2 Advocate on key issues for a safer community	3.2.a Identify and act on opportunities to advocate to state and federal governments regarding local social and public infrastructure issues as appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of representations to state and federal MPs regarding community safety or related (e.g., affordable housing) matters • Number of submissions to relevant public inquiries 	Ongoing
3.3 Lead and support local partnerships to foster collective action for safer communities	3.3.a Review the Penrith Community Safety Partnership, with reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective outcomes on community safety matters • current practice and the policy environment • improving community outcomes through collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership is reviewed with any new approach to be informed by strategic partners • Number of partnership or collaborative initiatives delivered 	2023–24
	3.3.b Participate in safety partnerships including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepean PAC Community Safety Precinct Committee • Nepean Police Aboriginal Consultative Committee • City Centre Corporations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of meetings where Council is represented • Number of information presentations delivered to these groups 	Ongoing
	3.3.c Include considerations of community safety, criminal justice and domestic violence in the review of Council-led interagencies and sector development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review delivered 	2024–2025
	3.3.d Develop and disseminate demographic profiles of vulnerable groups to support stakeholders to understand and respond to community safety needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop 6–8 detailed statistical profiles regarding the safety of vulnerable groups • Ensure each group is actively engaged in shaping the narrative of profiles, incorporating lived experience 	



Appendix

Penrith Crime Profile

Penrith Community Safety Snapshot

We've developed this community safety snapshot to provide an overview of the crime and safety challenges we face across our LGA. It summarises key information and is intended to be read with the Penrith Crime Profile Report.

What is community safety?

Community safety is about building communities so that all people can live without fear, both emotionally and physically.

It involves reducing crime, minimising risk, supporting vulnerable community members and strengthening social cohesion so we all feel safe.

How did we develop this snapshot?

This community safety snapshot has been developed with local crime data and insights using the following methodology:

- Conducted demographic analysis using Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census data to understand our community better.
- Analysed crime data to identify local safety challenges and understand changes over time using NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 2022 data.
- Interviewed Nepean Police Area Command to understand key crime and safety concerns from a local policing perspective.



What did we find?

Key findings from our research include:

- Many crimes are opportunistic, like stealing from a retail store, vandalism or fraud.
- Domestic and family violence remains a priority safety concern across the Penrith LGA.
- Mental health is a growing concern in our community.
- Alcohol is a key contributing factor to the general occurrence of crime.
- Crime is more likely to occur at transport hubs, licensed premises, retail stores, and homes.

We know there are challenges that our community faces...

More of our community is living in high-density housing

More of our community has long-term health conditions, such as asthma, mental illness and diabetes

We are home to vulnerable communities that require support

Climate risks, including extreme heat and weather events, increasingly impact us

There is increasing demand for housing affordability as our population grows

An increase in population and demand for housing will increase the need for public transport links, services and facilities

...and that these factors impact how our community perceives & experiences crime and safety in our LGA

Source: ABS Census 2021

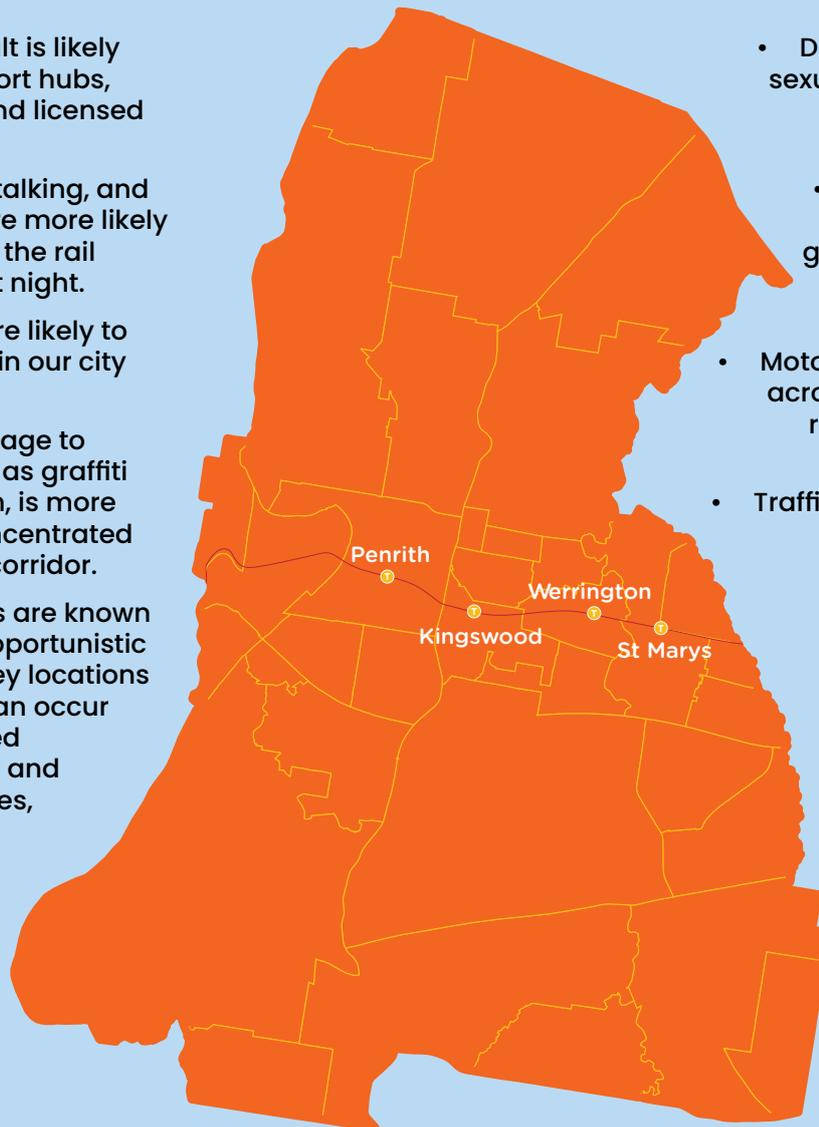
What do we know about where crime is more likely to occur in our LGA?

Our city centres

- Physical assault is likely around transport hubs, high streets, and licensed premises.
- Intimidation, stalking, and harassment are more likely to occur along the rail corridor and at night.
- Robbery is more likely to occur at night in our city centres.
- Malicious damage to property, such as graffiti and vandalism, is more likely to be concentrated along the rail corridor.
- Transport hubs are known hotspots for opportunistic crime. Other key locations where crime can occur include licensed premises, food and retail businesses, and places where people congregate in masses.

Our residential areas

- Domestic violence and sexual offences are more likely to occur in our residential areas.
 - Malicious damage to property, such as graffiti and vandalism, also occurs in our residential areas.
- Motor vehicle theft occurs across our LGA, along the rail corridor and in our northern suburbs.
- Traffic accidents are more likely on our country roads and lanes.
 - Fraud is reported across the Penrith LGA, including in our residential areas.



Source: ABS Census 2021

BOCSAR crime data tells us that overall, there is a higher level of crime across various offence categories in the Penrith LGA compared to the average across NSW.

Top nine offences in Penrith City compared to NSW

(Rate of incident per 100,000 population)



We know from BOCSAR data that:



Males are more likely to be both victims and offenders of physical assault.



Women between the ages of 30 and 40 are more likely to experience domestic and family violence in their homes.



Alcohol is a key contributing factor to safety challenges, including offensive conduct, offensive language and domestic violence-related assault.

We heard from Nepean PAC that:



Responding to mental health-related incidents is resource intensive for the Police.



Some young people may participate in opportunistic crime due to factors like boredom and peer influence.



The most common types of fraud are fuel drive-offs, where people leave without paying for fuel, or card fraud. An increase in fraud is often linked to higher costs of living.

Community safety is a team effort

Community safety is a complex issue, and addressing it requires a collaborative approach.

Council will work together with our community, local business, service providers and other community partners, to shape a safe, active and vibrant community.

