

SAFER ALBANY PLAN







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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this plan is to provide a plan to direct community safety activity within the City of Albany in line with themes 4 and 5 in the City's Community Strategic Plan.

"There is a strong desire to ensure a sense of belonging and a positive connection between our rural and urban communities. It is important that we know and respect our neighbours, live in communities which support us, and have safe, accessible places to gather and meet. People want to feel welcome, valued and connected."

Community safety is about how safe people feel both when out within our community and in their own homes. It is an important issue of public concern that impacts upon all those who live, work, visit and do business in Albany.

Safety is not the sole responsibility of the City of Albany. As the recent COVID-19 Pandemic has demonstrated, we all have a part to play in creating a safer community. The Pandemic has also highlighted how important it is that as an organisation, and a community we work together and support each other through difficult times.

The City works closely with a number of agencies including WA Police and Department of Fire & Emergency Services in developing a safe community.

The City of Albany is committed to providing a safe community and has developed this Safer Albany Plan which works towards creating a safer environment. The following are the key priority areas of the plan:

- Safe spaces and places;
- Community awareness and education;
- · Community partnerships; and
- Organisational preparedness.

Working together as a community helps to make your neighbourhood safe, secure and vibrant for all who share it.

Community interaction is a shared responsibility that has proven positive effects on building a safer community, preventing crime and developing community spirit.

Dey D/



MAYOR

Shap



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER CITY OF ALBANY

OVERVIEW

The City of Albany is committed to working with key partners and the community to increase the safety of our community. This Plan replaces the City of Albany Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2008–2013 and aims to summarise existing City of Albany activities and identify opportunities to make our community safer in the future.

This Plan has been developed using the 'Australian Safe Communities Framework' which takes a broad holistic approach to community safety (Australian Safe Communities Foundation. (2012)).



Note: Intentional Injury refers to suicide, assaults, neglect and abandonment. Unintentional Injury incudes most traffic crashes, falls, burns, fire injuries and drowning.

Community safety is an important issue of public concern and is a challenge that demands a cooperative response.

A safe community creates a place that is attractive to live, work, visit and do business.

The City of Albany is in a unique position to build upon existing relationships and develop collaborations to enhance community safety. The City of Albany recognises that achieving community safety outcomes that are relevant to local issues and concerns is vital for the long term development of Albany, and this is only possible through partnerships and collaboration.

This Plan will provide a framework to develop a planned holistic approach to community safety and crime prevention and guide the City's focus areas activity for the next four years.

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WHO WE ARE

The City of Albany is a large local government area, covering 4,310 square kilometres situated along the south coast of Western Australia.

It boasts an enviable mix of urban and rural lifestyles, with agriculture and retail among its main industries. Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest industry by employment. Tourism is growing as the region's profile and reputation increases, driving visitation.

It's a large and diverse community for the City of Albany to run, managing a budget of \$109.5 million in 2019/20 that balances value for money with maintaining the high-level of service delivery the community needs.

The City is one of the region's biggest employers and is responsible for things like local roads and pathways, gardens and playgrounds, rubbish collection and recycling, local fire brigades, public buildings, community health and safety, and much more.

It also provides community facilities like Albany Public Library, Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre, Albany Regional Airport, Vancouver Arts Centre, Albany Regional Day Care, Albany Visitor Centre, and the National Anzac Centre.

VANCOUVER WARD

6

37,826
PEOPLE LIVING IN THE CITY OF ALBANY







- Employs 410 people
- Manages \$564 million in assets



19,003
RESIDENTS ARE EMPLOYED



STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This Plan is closely aligned to the City of Albany's Community Strategic Plan and vision 'to be Western Australia's most sought after and unique regional City to work, live and visit.'

It directly addresses a number of key themes from the Albany 2030 Community Strategic Plan:

Theme 4: Community Health & Participation:

- 4.1 To build resilient and cohesive communities with a strong sense of community spirit.
- 4.3 To develop and support a healthy inclusive and accessible community.

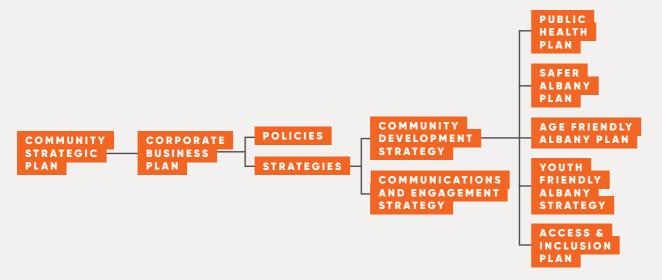
There is a strong desire to ensure a sense of belonging and a positive connection between our rural and urban communities. It is important that we know and respect our neighbours, live in communities which support us, and have safe, accessible places to gather and meet. People want to feel welcome, valued and connected.

Theme 5: A Connected and Safe Built Environment:

- 5.2 To advocate, plan for and build friendly and connected communities.
- 5.3 To develop and support a health inclusive and accessible community.

The community will know we are succeeding when our community feel safe in their homes and in public spaces and places.

The plan is also interlinked with a number of other Plans and Strategies that have an impact on improving the community's sense of belonging and safety.



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LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The City of Albany is governed by a number of local, state and federal legislation and strategies in which it must operate and at times enforce. This plan has been developed in consideration of:

- Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972
- Activities on Thoroughfares & Public Places & Trading Local Law 2011
- Building Act 2011
- Building Regulations 2012
- Bushfire Act 1954
- Cat Act 2011
- Cat Regulations 2012
- City of Albany Dog Local Law 2017
- · City of Albany Animals Local Law 2001
- Conservation and Land Management Act 1984
- · Control of Vehicles (Off-Road Areas) Act 1978
- Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 & Regulations 1981
- Disability Services Act 1993
- Dog Act 1976
- Dog Regulation 2013
- Emergency Management Act 2005
- Emergency Management Regulations 2006
- Freedom of Information Act 1992
- Heritage Act of Western Australia 2018

- Land Administration Act 1997
- Litter Act 1979
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1960
- Local Government Act 1995 & Regulations
- Local Government Property Local Law 2011
- Main Roads Act 1930
- · Occupational Health & Safety Act 1984
- Parking & Parking Facilities Local Law 2009
- Public Health Act 2016
- Road Traffic Act 1974 & Regulations
- Road Traffic Code 2000
- Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996
- · SEMC Plan, Policy & Procedure
- State Emergency Management Plans
- Surveillance Devices Act 1998

- Western Australia CCTV Guidelines
- Western Australian State CCTV Strategy

RELATED CITY PLANS, STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

This Plan shares objectives with other plans and strategies. This is due to the importance of an individual's perception of safety in achieving a positive state of well-being.

"Safe communities are also strong, cohesive, vibrant and participatory communities" (Safe Communities Foundation NZ).

Additional City Plans, Strategies and Policies include:

- · Age Friendly Albany Plan
- Albany Local Planning Strategy
- Albany Spatial Data Specifications
- · Albany Trails Hub Strategy
- Art in the Domain Guideline
- Art in the Domain Policy
- Beach Closure Policy & Procedure
- Bush Fire Strategic Plan 2014-2019
- Carbon Footprint Reduction Strategy
- Centennial Park Sporting Precinct
- Cycle City Albany
- Community Development Strategy
- Environmental Weed Strategy
- · Fire Management Notice
- Graffiti Management Policy
- Heritage Protection Policy

- Local Emergency Management Arrangements
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Master Plan
- Mounts Master Plan
- Natural Reserves Strategy
- Prescribed Burning Management Manual
- · Property Management (Leases & Licenses) Policy
- Public Health Plan
- Regulatory Compliance Policy & Guideline
- Road Maintenance, Renewal & Upgrade Community Guidelines
- · Strategic Asset Management Plan
- Subdivision Development Guidelines
- Urban Tree Strategy
- Youth Friendly Albany Strategy

ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN COMMUNITY SAFETY

The City of Albany plays a pivotal role in community safety in Albany. City planning and approvals, management and maintenance of public spaces, enforcement of local laws and the provision of a wide range of services to businesses, residents, rate payers and visitors, all contribute to public safety.

In addition to planning and service provision, the City plays a critical role in identifying, preparing and responding to community safety issues. While primary responsibility for law enforcement and crime prevention rests with state government agencies such as WA Police, there is also growing recognition that local government is well-placed to facilitate community safety and crime prevention initiatives.

The City liaises with community, state and federal government agencies to facilitate actions that reduce risks and increase community safety.



COMMUNITY SAFETY IN ALBANY

The City is committed in to ensuring a safe community for all. In 2018/19 initiatives included:



889

KILOMETRES OF UNSEALED ROADS GRADED



778

KILOMETRES OF SEALED ROADS MAINTAINED



217

PUBLIC BUILDINGS MAINTAINED



2,500

STRENGTH BUILDING CLASSES FOR SENIORS



6,138

CUSTOMER SERVICE
REQUESTS RESPONDED
TO ACROSS ALL
DEPARTMENTS



3,200

PEOPLE ENROLLED IN SWIMMING CLASSES

14



8,030

LIFEGUARD HOURS PROVIDED AT ALAC



122

FIRES RESPONDED TO BY VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADES



147

EVENT APPLICATIONS APPROVED



158

HEALTH COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED



391

HEALTH INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED Rangers team responded to 1931 service requests, including:



162

BARKING OR NUISANCE DOGS



234

DOGS IMPOUNDED (195 REUNITED WITH THEIR OWNERS, 28 REHOMED, 11 DESTROYED AT OWNER OR COURT DIRECTION OR CONSIDERED TOO AGGRESSIVE TO REHOME)



3

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY EDUCATION WORKSHOPS DELIVERED



8

SHARK SIGHTINGS



666

REPORTS OF DOGS WANDERING



106

ATTACKS



162

REPORTS OF STRAYING STOCK

The City of Albany is committed to align, facilitate and work with community safety programs, in particular working with the:

- Western Australian Police Force (WAPOL);
- · Department of Fire and Emergency Services;
- Kidsafe;
- Royal Life Saving Society;
- Albany Surf Life Saving Club;
- · WA Country Health Service;
- St John Ambulance;
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions;
- · Albany Police & Community Youth Centre; and
- All community groups and individuals who assist to make our community safer.

The City is also an active member of the following committees and collaborative working groups:

- Albany Family & Domestic Violence Action Group;
- Lower Great Southern Alcohol and other Drug Management Group;
- Local Drug Action Team;
- Great Southern Suicide Prevention Action Group;
- Great Southern Human Services Forum;
- Local Emergency Management Committee;
- Roadwise Albany; and

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 Relevant health and injury prevention forums and networks.

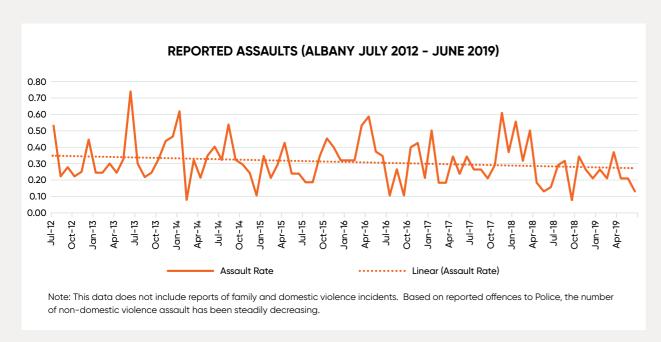
Crime Statistics

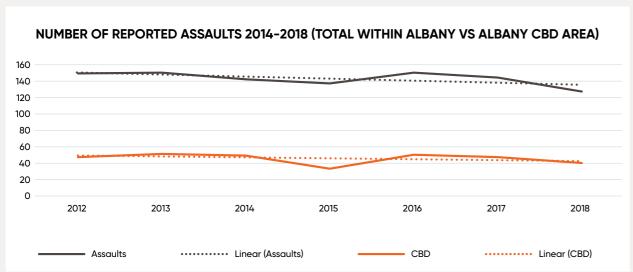
The following charts show the number of offences reported to Police from July 2012 to June 2019.

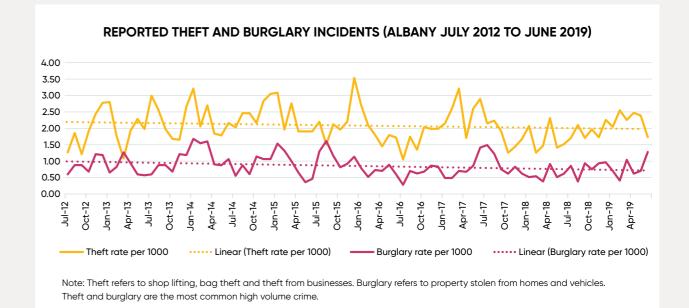
Please note the following:

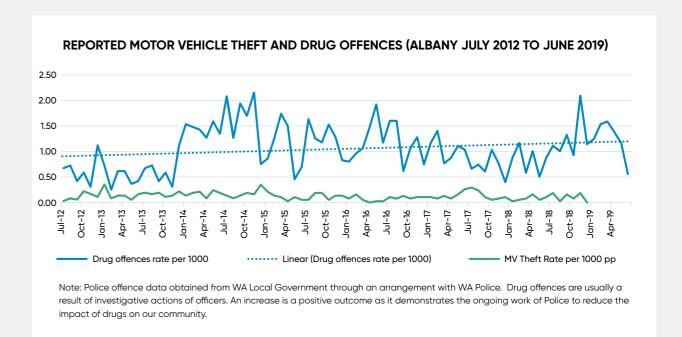
- These figures are based on reported incidents to the WA Police. Not all crimes are reported to police. Some crimes are more likely to be reported to police than others (for example burglary compared to graffiti);
- The numbers of offences are simply the number of offences occurring (recorded by police) within a specific area and for a specified period of time. These are presented as simple counts. The problem with using crime numbers to gauge the true level of crime is that areas with larger populations will presumably have higher numbers of crime than areas with smaller populations.
- Anti-social behaviour doesn't necessarily result in a person being charged;

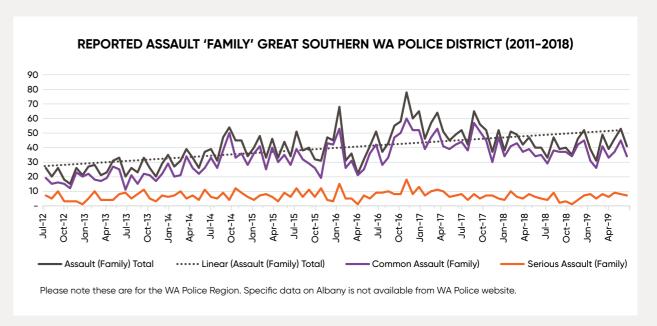
- Police operations can increase the detection of crimes. For example drug offences;
- Offences are categorised as to when they were reported, not when they took place.
 Therefore some of the offences reported could be historical (e.g. sex offences); and
- Rates displayed in this publication are always presented per 1000 persons unless otherwise indicated. Calculation of rates allows direct comparisons of crime to be made across time since the size of the population is taken into account in the calculation.











Leading Causes of Injury

- In 2012–2016, Albany residents were hospitalised 4,425 times for conditions due to injury
- In 2016, injury accounted for 4,665 bed days

In 2012-2016:

BY FALLS

1407
INJURIES CAUSED

HOSPITALISATIONS
DUE TO ASSAULT

HOSPITALISATIONS
DUE TO BURNS

INCIDENTS OF POISONING

181
INJURIES THROUGH
SELF-HARM

HOSPITALISATIONS
DUE TO DROWNINGS

506
INJURIES THROUGH
TRANSPORT INCIDENTS

Fatalities 2011-2015:

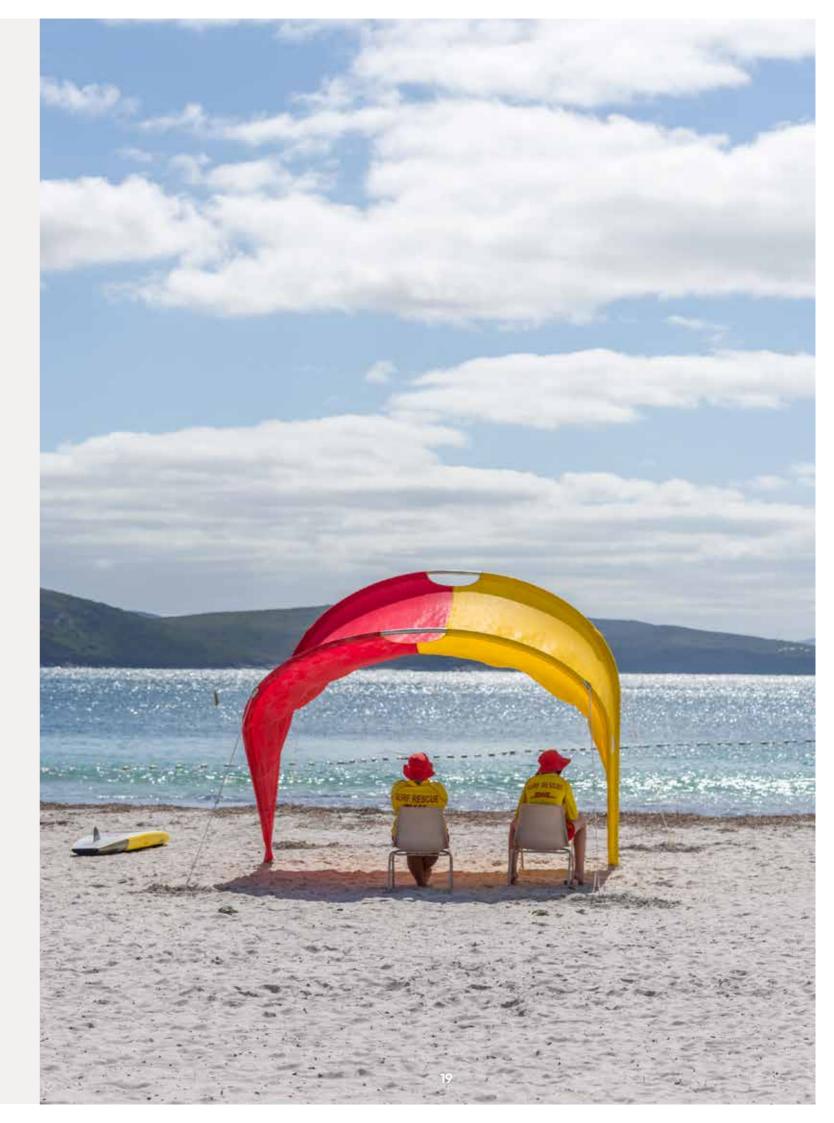
DUE TO

RELATED TO TRANSPORT

FROM DROWNING

RESULTED FROM SELF-HARM

RELATED TO POISONING



^{**}Information obtained from 'Know Injury' using data generated using Health Track Reporting, by the Epidemiology Branch, WA Department of Health in collaboration with the Cooperative Research Centre of Spatial Information (CRC-SI). Injury by external causes. 2018

COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY

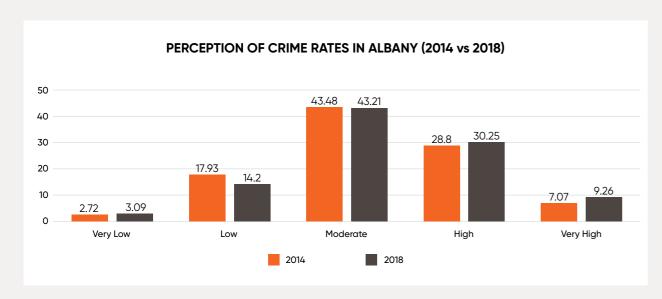
An individual's perception of 'safety' is shaped by a number of factors (Shepherdson, 2014). These factors may include:

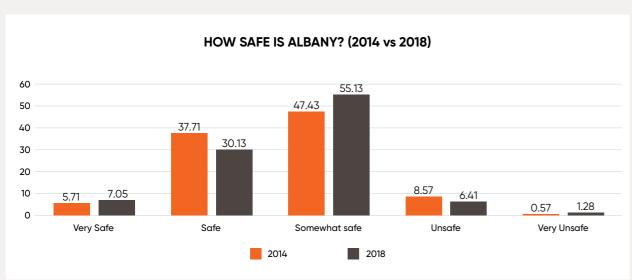
- · Gender;
- Age;
- · Ethnicity;
- Socio-economic status; and
- · Past experiences of crime.

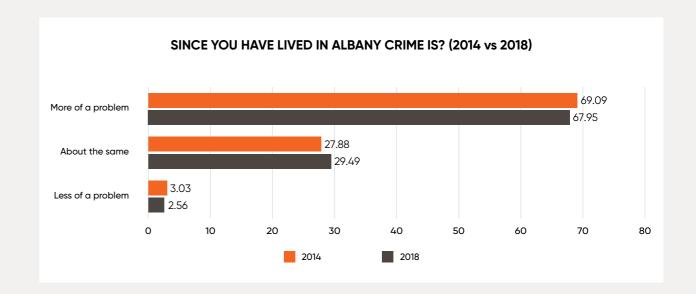
Additional influences include information from family, friends, work colleagues and the media. The impact of social media is still emerging so it is unclear as to how much it is influencing perceptions and fear of crime (Clare, 2018). There is also additional research to show that an individual's work, community or home environment also influences their perception of safety.

"Visible graffiti, litter, unmaintained community infrastructure impacts on how 'safe' one feels in their home and in the wider community." (Shepherdson, 2014).

The actual rate of crime can have very little impact on a person's perception of safety. Respondents to the Australian Survey of Social Attitudes (AuSSA) reported they felt crime had increased, despite national crime trends showing the level of crime had actually dropped over the period in question (Roberts & Indemaur, 2009 in Davis 2010). Similar results are reflected in responses to City of Albany community safety perception surveys conducted in 2014, and again in 2018.







Insights:

- Despite Police statistics indicating a fall in majority of offences, there is still a perception that crime is becoming more of a problem in our community. This could be due to the impact of crime reports in the media and the impact of social media.
- The majority of respondents gauge how safe their community is based on reports in the media and posts on social media;
- There is a perception that crime in Albany is increasing, in comparison to WA Police Statistics which shows the number of offences has decreased over the past six years;
- Respondents felt safer in well-lit locations where there were lots of people, with majority citing that the presence of CCTV did also increase their sense of personal safety.

It is recognised that there are varying views on perceptions of safety and crime within the community and that all levels of government, community groups, businesses and individuals have a role in creating safer public places. Local government in particular is in a unique position to build relationships and create collaboration around reducing fear and perceptions about crime in the community. Fear of crime has become an important issue of public concern; a problem which detracts from the quality of life, and which adversely affects social and economic well-being.

Based on the evidence and feedback from community, the City has identified four key areas for the Safer Albany Plan:



SAFER SPACES & PLACES



COMMUNITY EDUCATION & AWARENESS



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION



BUILDING ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles which form the basis of the Safer Albany Plan include:

PRINCIPLE ONE

Awareness – everyone has a part to play in creating a safe community

PRINCIPLE TWO

Wellbeing – the wellbeing of our residents and visitors is paramount

PRINCIPLE THREE

Collaboration – the City does not work in isolation, but in collaboration with a range of government departments, community organisations and businesses

PRINCIPLE FOUR

Advocacy – many aspects of community safety fall outside of the City of Albany remit, but advocacy may shape and influence for positive outcomes and perhaps an increase in resources devoted to public safety

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

To develop the Safer Albany Plan the City undertook extensive research to identify best practice for the development of the plan. This included reviewing other local government plans, reports from the World Health Organization and through the WA Community Safety Officers Network.

Feedback from the community was obtained through community safety perception surveys conducted in 2014 and in 2018, and Community Perception Survey Results 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2019. The City also collated feedback from Community Safety Forums Albany Police held in November 2017.

Data from WA Police, Injury matters and internal reports were analysed to assist with identifying opportunities to improve or value add to existing City of Albany activities.

Here is a summary of the journey

JULY 2018

Project planning; research; literature review

AUGUST 2018

Internal working group formed

NOVEMBER 2018

Internal engagement; meeting with WA Police
– Officer in Charge Albany Police Station

DECEMBER 2018

Community safety perception survey

FEBRUARY 2019

Data analysis

JUNE 2019

Finalisation of draft plan; distribution of plan internally for feedback from City working group

MAY 2020

Workshop with council members

JUNE 2020

Public comment

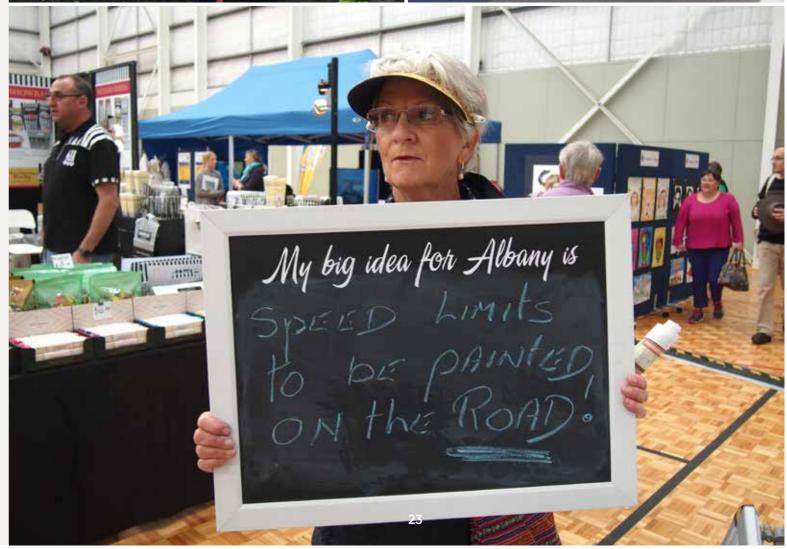
JULY 2020

Council endorsement









SAFER ALBANY PLAN

What is the City of Albany's role?

The City of Albany's role in delivering the plan will vary depending on the objective. Where the focus of the objective is within the role of local government, the City will lead/manage the project. Where the objective falls outside of the City's remit, the City role will be to advocate on behalf of community along with other government agencies and community.

CITY OF ALBANY ROLE	CITY OF ALBANY WILL
L - LEAD / MANAGE	Lead/manage the action or project as the responsible agency.
P - PARTNER	Contribute funds and/or resources towards an initiative or service that is delivered with other parties.
A - ADVOCATE	Advocate to State and Federal Government agencies on behalf of the community.
S - SUPPORTER / RESOURCE	Support through provision of available resources.
F - FACILITATOR	Facilitate action through contracting of services.

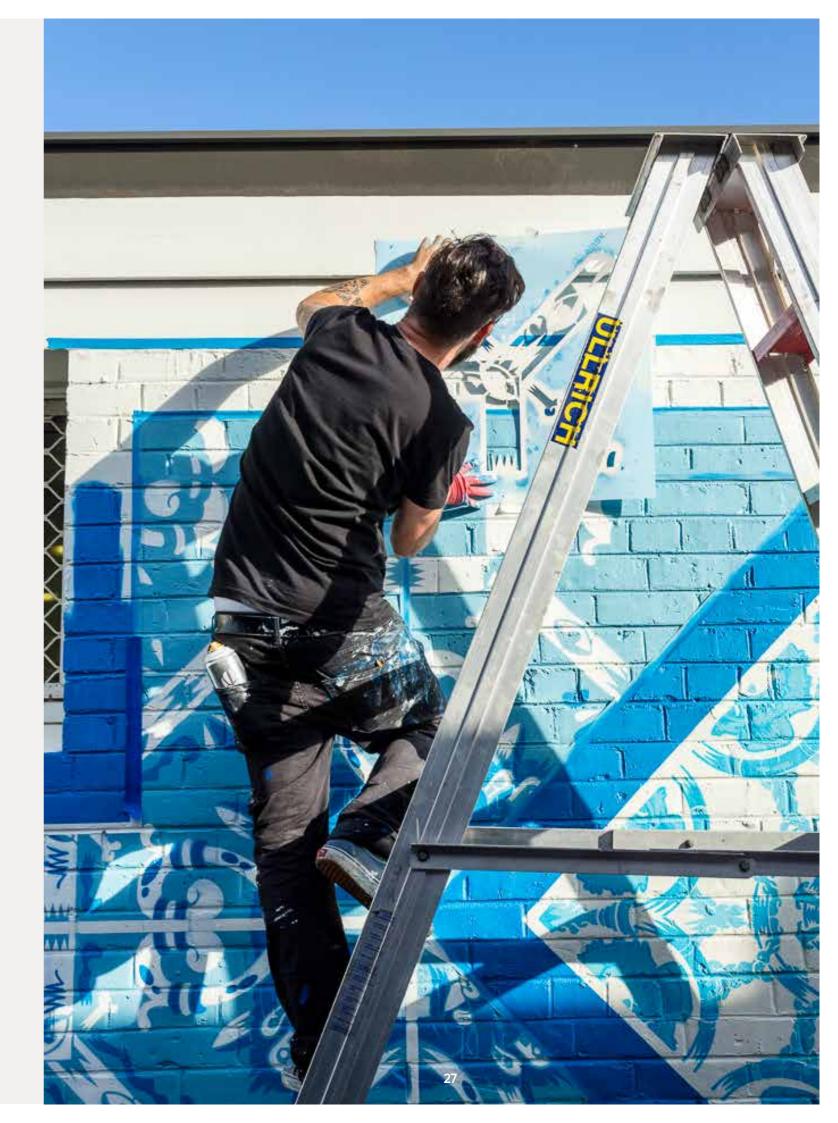
Safer Albany Plan

As most of these actions are ongoing, or subject to the availability of external funding this plan will be supported by an annual delivery schedule, supported by an internal working group to ensure the plan is delivered.





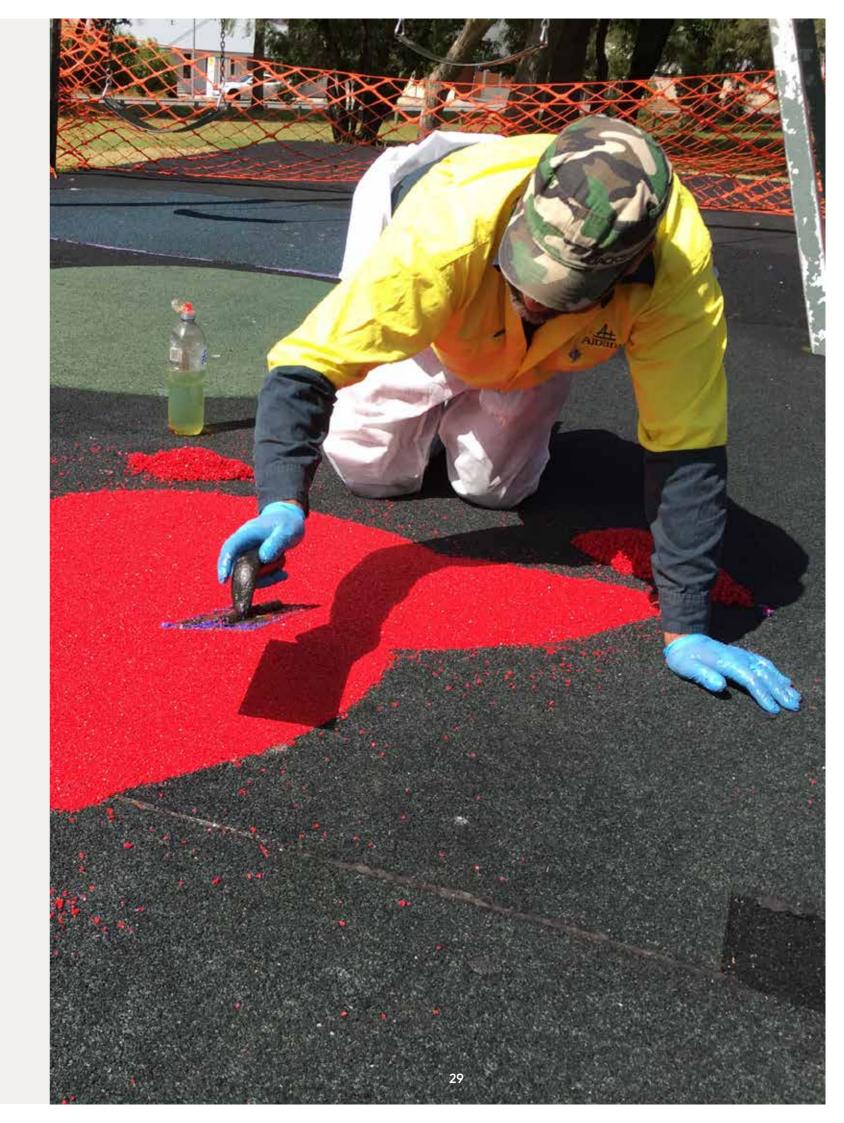
	rs feel safe in their homes and playgrounds, beaches, transport tainment precincts.	CITY ROLE				
Our Priorities	We know we are succeeding when	L	L P A S			F
1.1 Safer City centre for visitors and residents.	Residents and visitors feel safe accessing our City centre during the day and evening.	х			х	
1.2 Use technology to create a safer community.	A range of technologies are utilised to increase community safety.	х				
1.3 Create a safer environment by utilising crime prevention through environmental design principals.	New projects and redevelopments of public open space are designed to maximise public safety.	X				
1.4 Maintain safe public spaces.	Public spaces are well maintained and well utilised.	х			х	
1.5 Create a 'tag free' Albany.	There is a visible reduction in 'tags' across the City of Albany.	х		х		х
1.6 Create a more inclusive accessible community for vulnerable groups.	Biennial survey responses show an increase in community members feeling welcomed, valued and included.	x				
1.7 Ensure safe community events.	There is a diverse range of events delivered safely each year that comply with the City's Event Guidelines.	x				
1.8 Safer roads.	Reduction in the number of road users, pedestrians and cyclists injured.	Х	Х	Х		Х
1.9 Reduce risk through bushfire risk management.	Increased community resilience and awareness on how to respond and react to bushfire emergencies.	x	x	x		





PRIORITY 2 COMMUNITY EDUCATION & AWARENESS

GOAL: Community member to ensure they can be safe contribute to creating a saf		CITY ROLE				
Our Priorities	We know we are succeeding when	L	Р	A	s	F
2.1 Develop and promote safety campaigns to promote local services, and raise awareness of safety initiatives to protect vulnerable groups and those experiencing family and domestic violence.	There is an increased in awareness of local services, and reduction in fall related injuries.	X	X	х	х	х
2.2 Crime prevention education activities.	There is an increase in residents perception of safety and there is a decrease in the number of burglaries of unsecured houses/vehicles.	х	х	x	X	
2.3 Develop a sense of community and 'connectedness' through programs, activities and initiatives.	There is an increased sense of community reflected in the biennial community survey results.	x	х	х	Х	
2.4 Increase residents and visitors perception of safety.	Perception surveys show an increase in the number of responders feeling 'safer' in our community.	х				
2.5 Increase residents preparedness for emergencies.	Residents feel more prepared to cope with emergencies.	X	X	x		
2.6 Increased compliance through education.	There is a reduction in the number compliance team interventions.	х				





PRIORITY 3 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

GOAL: Increase safety thro with key agencies and com	ugh working in collaboration munity groups		CIT	Y R	OLE	
Our Priorities	We know we are succeeding when	L	Р	A	s	F
3.1 Strengthen and maintain relationship with WA Police.	There is a strong sense of collaboration between City and WA Police.		х			
3.2 Collaborate with government and community to deliver community safety outcomes.	There is an increase in the number of collaborative initiatives within our community.		x		x	
3.3 Track and share data in relation to community safety.	Data collected enables the City and partners to successfully apply for grant funding to deliver community safety initiatives.	x				



PRIORITY 4 BUILDING ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

	actively prepared to support nd other safety issues of concern	CITY ROLE				
Our Priorities	We know we are succeeding when	L	Р	A	s	F
4.1 Development of staff to respond to emergencies and recovery.	Staff report feeling sufficiently trained to respond to incidents, emergencies and recovery.	x				х
4.2 Increase organisation's preparedness to respond to community emergencies.	There is a cohesive, organised response to community emergencies.	x				х
4.3 Maintain up to date knowledge on state, national and international community safety initiatives.	There is a best practice approach to all the City activities in the safety space.	х				
4.4 Actively seek funding to address community safety issues.	Sufficient funding is obtained by the City of Albany to fully deliver all strategies under the plan.	×				
4.5 Ensure the effective capture of data for reporting and funding purposes.	We have sufficient data to accurately measure the impact of initiatives delivered under the plan.	X	x	x		





IMPLEMENTATION, EVALUATION AND MONITORING

Implementation

It is proposed that this plan be implemented over a four year period commencing 2019/20 and concluding in 2022/23.

The successful completion of all actions in some cases will be dependent on attracting additional funding.

Measuring Performance

The ultimate success of a plan depends greatly on how the change is introduced and implemented rather than the merit of the plan itself.

The performance indicators for each action will be collected annually to enable the monitoring of ongoing progress and performance.

Evaluating Effectiveness

The performance indicators detailed in each key direction will form a basis for a comprehensive review of this Plan and to be conducted in during 2023/2024.

The review will incorporate but not be limited to:

- Community Safety Survey (biennial);
- Community Perception Survey;
- Community feedback;
- · Relevant crime statistics and surveys; and

REVIEW POSITION AND DATE

This plan was adopted on 28 July 2020. This plan is to be reviewed by the document owner on or before 30th June 2023.





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DEFINITIONS

Assault – The use of force against another person, or the threat of the use of force where the threat has a real or perceived ability to be enacted at the time.

Burglary – The unlawful entry of building with the intent to commit an offence.

Drug offences – The possessing, selling, dealing or trafficking, importing or exporting, manufacturing or cultivating of drugs or other substances prohibited under legislation.

Graffiti – Unlawful property damaged caused by paint, marker, etching, scratching or other form of property damage.

Rate per 1000 residents – Calculated by taking the number of offences divided by the estimated resident population for that year (based on ABS estimates), multiplied by 1000.

Theft - Theft refers to shop lifting, bag theft and theft from businesses.

Vulnerable community members – Refers to members of our community who are at a higher risk of becoming a victim of crime or injury, including: elderly, homeless, young people, LGBTQI, indigenous, people with a disability and those people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.











