

19 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

19.1 Question with Notice: Councillor Tatrai: Inquiry Regarding Police Presence and Crime Prevention in Kiama

Clr Yasmin Tatrai has submitted the following question with notice for consideration:

Question

1. Is the recent increase in crime, including incidents such as street bins being set on fire and dragged to local establishments, a common occurrence in Kiama and our surrounding LGA?
2. What is the vandalism cost to the Kiama LGA
3. What specific steps has the council taken to prevent such incidents?
4. Given the current rise in crime rates, including vehicle vandalism, is it feasible to recommend that our local police station be manned 24/7?
5. Can council pursue discussions with the Minister for Police regarding a need for increased police presence in the Kiama LGA?

Councillor information provided

Background

Kiama has seen some astounding increase in crime, with residents reporting various incidents, such as vandalism of vehicles and public property.

Recently, two members of the public have told me that their cars were targeted, and water bombed on Terralong Street.

This trend raises significant concerns about community safety and the adequacy of police response to our LGA. With the local police station not operating 24/7, it is essential to assess the impact of this on crime rates and look at measures council can take to address these types of events.

Advocating for a continuous police presence may be necessary to ensure community safety and deter future vandalism.

Chief Executive Officer response

Crime statistics are collated and administered by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistic & Research in conjunction with NSW Police. Council do not record crime information or the costs of any vandalism repairs so are unable to answer this QwN. Council does allocate an annual budget of \$3000 for graffiti removal, of which only a small portion has been expended so far this financial year. Anecdotally Council's maintenance staff have noted an increase in vandalism repairs particularly in respect to the public toilets.

While Council may advocate for a continuous 24/7 police presence at the Kiama police station, the allocation of policing resources and operations is administered by the NSW

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Police and Government based on identified needs and statistical crime data from across the Lake Illawarra command area.

A recent media release from the Minister for Police & Counter-terrorism and the Member for Kiama, have announced that the Kiama police station will be reopened from 13th October 2025, with on-duty officers from 9am to 5pm Monday to Sunday following a recent closure for renovations. This will support the current 24-hour service by the Lake Illawarra Police District command from the Oaks Flats headquarters

All residents are encouraged to report any incidents to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, so these matters are added to the crime database so NSW Police can investigate, track any changes and respond accordingly.

Regular meetings with the State member and the Mayor / CEO will address and focus on a wide range of matters that affect residents and may include discussions on crime trends.

Item 19.1

19.2 Question with Notice: Councillor Brown: Beautification of Railway Bridge and Crash Bar - Terralong St

Clr Matt Brown has submitted the following question with notice for consideration:

Question

Could Council seek information on how TfNSW can assist with making this High Vehicle Crash Bar, and supporting pylons, more attractive and less visually confronting, such as have the pylons and bridge painted by some local artists including some local destination branding?.

Councillor information providedBackground

A number of community members, including family, have asked what is happening with the upgrade to the High Vehicle Crash Bar and have expressed concern on its brutalist appearance. One comment that was provided to me was, "they are making the ugliest part of Terralong St even more ugly". Considering we are NSW's Top Tourist Town, we should see how we can make this upgrade less visually confronting and do what we can to reduce the visual impact.

Chief Executive Officer response

The current works by State Rail to upgrade the crash protection beams on the Terralong Street railway overpass was in response to the repeated collision of high vehicles into the previous bridge protections over a number of years. This is despite the numerous advance warning signs and flashing lights on the bridge indicating the low height restriction. These repeated collisions had resulted in the previous crash protection beams being bent to such a degree that there was a high risk of further collisions damaging and dislodging the heritage listed rail bridge.

The current barrier and pylons configuration has been designed to withstand the impacts from heavy vehicles. The painting of the overhead protection beams in the colour 'Y15 Sunflower' is in accordance with Australian Standard AS2700 to provide high visibility warning of an upcoming hazard and cannot be altered. Although the overall works are incomplete, painting of the support pylons on the westbound approach has been completed in the same heritage colour as the rail bridge for both consistency and to blend into the surrounding structures. While future modification to the support pylon's appearance may be possible through artworks, murals, branding etc, it must be balanced by not compromising the intent of the structure in providing a visual warning of the oncoming hazard.

Notwithstanding, Council has entered into a partnership with Transport for NSW to enhance and beautify public spaces through creativity and public art. A new public artwork will soon transform the underbridge wall on Terralong Street by renowned mural artist Jimmy Dvate. His large-scale works highlight Australia's endangered species and unique flora and he has been engaged to create a striking mural featuring the Illawarra Zieria, Eastern Ground Parrot, Eastern Bristlebird, and Carrington Falls Grevillea. The mural creation is expected to commence in November and will go some way to beautifying this area.

19.3 Question with Notice: Councillor Tatrai: Terralong Street Pedestrian Crossing

Clr Yasmin Tatrai has submitted the following question with notice for consideration:

Question

What action can council take to upgrade this crossing to help ensure safety for pedestrians, particularly those who are mobility impaired?

Councillor information provided**Background**

The pedestrian crossing just after the Thomson St roundabout is in a dilapidated state, making it dangerous for people to cross, as drivers do not see the crossing.

Chief Executive Officer response

This type of operational matter is most appropriately raised by the customer request management system (CRM) rather than via a question with notice in the business paper.

Since receiving the QwN Council staff have inspected these locations and will arrange for a line marking contractor to undertake refreshing of the paintwork using existing operational budget on the following locations:

- The pedestrian crossing on Terralong St west of Thomson Street.
- The roundabout on Terralong and Thomson Streets
- The pedestrian crossing on Terralong St near Rosebank Place.

These works will be completed in the near future subject to the contractor's availability and weather conditions.

