



Submission to the Inquiry into the Protection of Crowded Places in Western Australia from Terrorist Acts March 2018

The City of Mandurah (the City) is a regional City 80 kilometres south of Perth with a population over 80,000 people. Over many years the City has developed a reputation for having a number of significant events which include a Christmas Pageant, New Year's Eve celebration and the annual Crab Fest which is held in March every year and attracts over 100,000 people over a two day weekend.

The City has been requested by the inquiry to put in a submission particularly pertaining to the events the City runs and how they are responding to the changes in terrorism and large scale events. Events in many parts of the world have become a target of terrorism. The City has spent considerable time assessing the major events to try and work with the possible risks events present. This has included training of staff which is outlined below as well as the Director People and Communities meeting with events specialist Police Officers in both West Midlands and Leicestershire in the UK as well as events staff at Sunderland City Council. Sunderland runs events in a similar aspect as Mandurah along a seafront with roads running into the seafront as well as parallel to the sea. Each group of people met with gave invaluable and helpful advice as to where the City could improve and develop the event footprint to protect the event.

Some of the learnings from these discussions for the City which it has implemented are:

1. Early planning which includes all stakeholders is important. It needs to include regular and consistent attendance from stakeholders so relationships are developed with individuals. Information is shared to the group including any Police intelligence that may be available so that plans can be changed or further developed if necessary. Communication at this level is open with everyone having a shared accountability.
2. Senior Police and other senior personnel from agencies need to be committed to the process so decisions are made by those who are authorised to do so, and the people in the room are able to make decisions on behalf of their agency.
3. Plans need to be developed for eventualities. Scenario planning so that if something does go wrong then the people on the ground know what to do, and who is in charge of making decisions.
4. The planning also needs to involve staff, volunteers and stallholders so they become the eyes and ears of the event, and are attuned to things not being right and may notice something that is out of kilter. They need to be empowered to say to staff, Police or security if something doesn't look or feel normal. Then there needs to be a process where this can be reported to and investigations can take place.
5. Bollards and the use of other perimeter blockings to stop potential trucks or other vehicles having access to the site. The UK is experimenting with a range of different things to put in the way to prevent access. These include fixed bollards, movable bollard and vehicles such as rubbish trucks or bales of straw. The UK is very intelligence driven and so is seeking solutions that address the intelligence but also particularly in community events, does not detract from the event and does not make people attending fearful and nervous to attend.



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6. Constantly evaluate and review how events are run so learnings happen for everyone involved. Continue to share expertise and knowledge with the stakeholders involved in the events.

Both the training and meetings have assisted the City to put things in place particularly around communications and the relationships with Police, security, staff, stallholders and volunteers. In the event of an attack or other emergency it is important that communication is open and relationships have been developed prior to this to make sure that the area can be evacuated safely and quickly, as well as a clear line of command as to who is in charge in such a situation.

In response to the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee's inquiry into the protection of crowded places in Western Australia from terrorist acts, the City of Mandurah submits the steps that have been taken in Mandurah.

What Steps Have Been Taken So Far

1. The City trained key staff in anti-terrorism awareness and planning for events, using an independent specialist company. This took place before the 2018 Crab Fest.
2. The Risk Management Strategy for Crab Fest was independently assessed, by the Local Government Insurance Service-Risk Management.
3. An operational major briefing was held by the City with key stakeholders including the Police in attendance to discuss evacuation plans and clarity established over clear roles and expectations. The attendance was high but we still have some work to do getting the right people in the room.
4. In 2018 the City introduced daily key stakeholders meetings – 11am Friday (Police only) and 8am Saturday and Sunday - City Event Coordinator and Section Manager/Police Inspector and Senior Sergeant-OIC/Security Manager/ Traffic Management Coordinator. These worked extremely well and will be continued across other events.
5. In 2018 there was also an increased focus on waterways evacuation, vessels present and evacuation points.
6. In 2018 there was a focus on reducing unknown vehicles on site or in the event precinct. The City introduced a layered vehicle identification dash pass system so there was better control of vehicles within the event footprint.
7. CCTV for event was integrated with WA Police in the Event Headquarters enabling the Police to be able to see events in live time and respond accordingly. There are 61 cameras in the event footprint or vicinity which gives very good coverage of the area.
8. There were pre-event walk throughs by the Events Coordinator and Section Manager (City) to identify safety and terrorism threats or opportunities. Undertaken daily Monday-Friday in lead up to event. Specific focus on evacuation avenues and vehicle movements.
9. A log book for incidents of security or Police call outs was introduced and maintained Monday 12/03/18 to Tuesday 20/03/18 – with event weekend 17/18/03.



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This will inform future planning particularly in terms of resourcing and where issues are on the footprint and who with.

10. Senior Police were involved for the first time with an Inspector on site for the event and the Operational Controller being a Senior Sergeant and Mandurah Police Officer in Charge – both of whom were on site Saturday and Sunday and attended all three operational briefings.
11. To increase the visibility of event staff and volunteers on site a new range of clothing was introduced to show clearly staff and volunteers working on site. Events staff were in blue with EVENTS clearly shown on the back and the City's logo. High-Vis clothing was introduced for ALL volunteers being a bright yellow shirt clearly marked with volunteer on the body of the shirt and the sleeves.
12. A post event briefing was conducted with Senior Police and Senior Events Management in the two weeks following the event to run through issues from the event and a clear record of what was learnt so this knowledge and experience can be carried on to future events.
13. There were zero serious incidents during the 2018 Crab Fest however lots of 'spot fires' – move on notices and some arrests for minor public nuisance offences.
14. There was clear event signage and information on the City's Crab Fest events webpage about where to go and what to do. This will continue to evolve as we start to bring the stallholders into the conversation around safety.
15. The events was designed as safe as possible with reviewed layouts, vehicle access points and evacuation points. This will continue to be undertaken for each future event.
16. The City will continue to review and implement systems at all City run events to keep the events as safe as possible.

In October 2018 the City is hosting the Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games. The Games will be held in six different venues across nine days. Given that this event has a higher degree of risk with the spread over different venues and the personnel involved, attention is being paid to securing all the venues.

For this event risk identification and treatments have been carried out for each venue. The emphasis is the opening and closing ceremonies and fencing and possible barriers will be put in place to protect the main social hub venue. The barriers will likely be vehicles which can be moved easily and do not make a big statement about security.

The City has looked at barriers for its events. At this stage we would look at vehicles at entrances rather than concrete blocks as the blocks are too difficult to remove in the case of an emergency to get emergency service vehicles in. However this is under constant review and will be informed by intelligence and information to hand.



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The City of Mandurah will continue to work in the event space to make events safer for all those that attend, and is committed to continue to evolve to make that happen.

We look forward to further information coming from this inquiry and any other information put out from either State or Federal Governments to make public place and events safer for all people to attend.

For further information please contact:

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