

# STREET SAFETY CAMERA PROGRAM

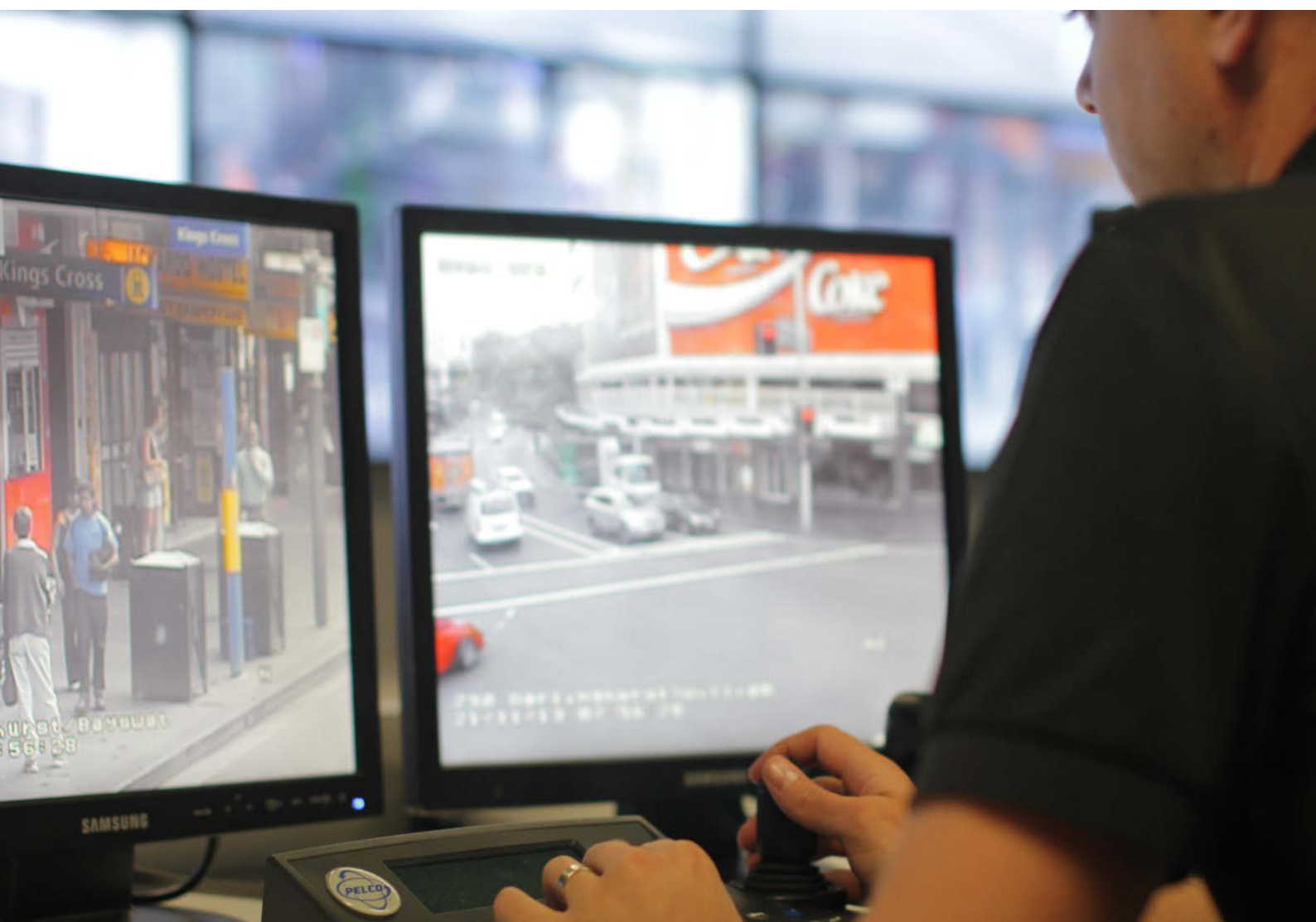
City of Sydney

Town Hall House

456 Kent Street

Sydney NSW 2000

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16



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## Introduction

City of Sydney's Street Safety Camera Program ("the Program") is an overt closed circuit television system monitoring public activities within the City of Sydney Local Government Area. The Program is one of several measures initiated by the City of Sydney to assist in the prevention of crime.

The aim of the Program is to assist in the prevention of crimes against the person. The objectives of City of Sydney's Street Safety Camera Program are:

- To reduce crime levels by deterring potential offenders;
- To reduce fear of crime;
- To help ensure a fast, effective police response in emergency situations;
- To assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders; and
- To help secure a safer environment for those people who live in, work in and visit the City of Sydney.

## Framework for Operation

The program involves 99 cameras connected to a central control room in Town Hall House by a fibre optic network. Images are transmitted live to the City's Security and Emergency Management Operations Centre and are monitored 24 hours a day by security staff engaged by the City of Sydney.

All images are recorded on digital video recorders. Recorded images are retained for 28 days and are then deleted unless they are required in relation to the investigation of crime or for court proceedings. CCTV Operators can transfer vision to the NSW Police Local Area Commands to assist with the immediate response to an incident.

The primary purpose of the program is to assist in the prevention of crimes against the person, including robbery, assault, affray, and extortion.

The secondary purpose of the program is to assist in the prevention of serious property related crime, including steal from motor vehicle, break and enter, malicious damage, receipt of stolen goods, and firearm offences.

In addition to its usual functions, the program may also be used to assist in the management of special events, demonstrations and public rallies, and in support of NSW Police operations targeting offences against the person.

The Program operates in accordance with:

- The Street Safety Camera Program Code of Practice
- The Street Safety Camera Program Standard Operating Procedures
- The Street Safety Camera Program MOU between NSW Police and City of Sydney

## Operating Budget

The annual costs of operating the program were \$1.865 million, comprised of:

- Salaries and Wages - \$1,400,000
- Equipment Maintenance - \$404,000
- Other Operating Expenses - \$61,000

## Capital Works Budget

### Asset Renewal – Cameras

The City commenced a 3 year program of cameras upgrades, replacing analogue cameras with digital cameras. The new cameras provide improved image quality allowing operators to more easily identify incidents and persons of interest. The renewal program is 60% complete leave us with 38 cameras to upgrade.

Project value: \$150,000 per year, over 3 years

## Operational Data

### CCTV Applications by Local Area Command

Local Area Command	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
Civilian Application	0	4	1	5	5	2	5	3	3	2	7	1	<b>38</b>
Internal Application	2	7	0	4	1	1	3	4	5	3	1	2	<b>39</b>
Kings Cross	24	32	15	10	14	14	21	15	13	19	21	28	<b>231</b>
Leichhardt	2		2	1	9	1		1	2	4	5	1	<b>28</b>
Other LAC	7	11	15	12	7	11	24	19	7	15	18	17	<b>163</b>
Surry Hills	11	15	10	7	10	10	7	13	6	6	16	5	<b>119</b>
Sydney City	76	71	91	74	83	66	67	69	62	77	82	73	<b>899</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>1517</b>

The City received 1,517 applications for CCTV footage in 2015/16 financial, resulting in:

- 150 occasions where the applications did not fall within the scope of the program and were rejected.
- 1037 items of footage being released to assist with investigation and prosecution of offences.
- 326 applications where no relevant footage was found.
- 3 view only requests
- 1 cancelled job (Police no longer required the footage)

- CCTV operators invested 5,467 staff hours reviewing and evaluating footage to assist police with their investigations.
- CCTV operators were able to alert the NSW Police of an incident about to take place or taking place on 678 occasions.
- CCTV operators were able to prevent an offence from occurring on 273 occasions by ensuring a fast and effective police response.
- CCTV operators were able to identify offenders on 87 occasions, assisting police with the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.
- CCTV operators reported on 5449 situations, transferring vision to police on 1,027 occasions.

### Incident Type by Local Area Command

Local Area Commands	Sydney City	Kings Cross	Leichhardt	Newtown	Surry Hills	Total
Concern for welfare	1250	272	3	3	213	<b>1741</b>
Emergency situation	15	3	0	0		<b>18</b>
Offences Against the Person	1295	300	2	3	195	<b>1792</b>
Police action	759	467	1	3	226	<b>1453</b>
Property related offences	223	46	0	3	40	<b>309</b>
Public order	51	1	0	0	0	<b>52</b>
Special CCTV Operation	23	0	0	0	1	<b>24</b>
Threatening situation	9	1	0	0	2	<b>12</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3667</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>5449</b>

## Special Events

The Program was used to support the management of the following special events:

- City to Surf, 9 August 2015
- Sydney Running Festival, 20 September 2015
- Prince Charles and Camilla visit - November 2015
- Lint Café Anniversary – December 2015
- New Year's Eve Celebrations, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015
- Australia Day, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016
- Mardi Gras Parade, 5 March 2016
- Anzac Day, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016
- Sydney Morning Herald Half Marathon, 15 May 2016
- Vivid Festival, May 2016 to June 2016

The Program was used to assist in the management of:

- Crowd movements in relation to crowd safety and traffic/pedestrian flow;
- Cleansing operations;
- Waste management; and

- Emergency Management

In accordance with the Code of Practice, the use of the Program to support the management of special events was approved by the Director, City Operations.

## **NSW Police Operations**

The Program was used to support the following police operations:

- Operation Compello
  - 2, 3, 17 October 2015
  - 14 November 2015
  - 4, 5, 18, 19 December 2015
- Operation Tepid
  - 15,16 March 2016
- Operation Simmer VI
  - December 2015 – March 2016 (Friday and Saturday Nights)

The use of the Program to support NSW Police Operations was approved in accordance with the Code of Practice.

## **Demonstrations and Public Rallies**

With the approval of the Lord Mayor and Chief Executive Officer, the Street Safety Camera Program may be used to support the management of the City during demonstrations and public rallies, including:

- Crowd movements in relation to crowd safety and traffic/pedestrian flow;
- Cleansing operations;
- Waste management; and
- Emergency Management

There were 52 occasions where the City was advised of demonstrations and protests within the CBD and provided routine monitoring to ensure public safety. On these occasions, footage was only provided to Police when operators were concerned for public safety or observed an offence taking place.

## **Lord Mayor Approvals - Exceptional Circumstances**

Under 3.1.7 of the Code of Practice, the Lord Mayor and Chief Executive Officer may permit one-off use of the Program outside the standard operating parameters under exceptional circumstances. There were no exceptional circumstances requiring the Lord Mayor and Chief Executive Officer approvals.

## **Annual Audit Outcomes**

The audit program has moved to a 2 year cycle and is to be completed in June 2017.

## **Street Safety Camera Program Working Group**

The City has established a Street Safety Camera Program Working Group comprised of representative from NSW Police, NSW Council for Civil Liberties, and the City of Sydney. The functions of the working group include:

- To provide an independent review and checking mechanism for the Street Safety Camera Program.
- To promote public confidence in the Program by ensuring its operations are transparent to the public and undergoing independent scrutiny and review.
- To contribute to the development of the scope of audit for the Program.
- To review and deviations from the Code of Practice, Protocols or Standard Operating Procedures and monitor recommended actions that will safeguard the program from abuse.
- To review proposed changes to the Street Safety Camera Program for assessment of the policy implications.
- To assist in the evaluation of the Program to identify if the purposes of the Program are being complied with and objectives are being achieved.

The CCTV Working Group did not meet in 2015/16 as there were no changes to the policy or operation of the program, or issues identified through internal audit.

## Further Information

For further information on the Street Safety Camera Program, please contact:

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