

# STREET SAFETY CAMERA PROGRAM

City of Sydney

Town Hall House

456 Kent Street

Sydney NSW 2000

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15



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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 \$1.76 million, comprised of:

- Salaries and Wages - \$1,276,000
- Equipment Maintenance - \$403,000
- Other Operating Expenses - \$76,000

## 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.

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

## Operational Data

### Applications by Local Area Command

| Local Area Command   | Jul        | Aug        | Sep       | Oct        | Nov        | Dec       | Jan        | Feb        | Mar        | Apr        | May        | June       | Total       |
|----------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Sydney City          | 49         | 55         | 44        | 53         | 67         | 37        | 74         | 71         | 71         | 75         | 58         | 82         | 736         |
| Civilian Application | 4          | 2          | 3         | 4          | 2          | 3         | 3          | 2          | 1          | 2          | 5          | 3          | 34          |
| Kings Cross          | 23         | 32         | 14        | 22         | 28         | 21        | 23         | 20         | 16         | 17         | 23         | 15         | 254         |
| Leichhardt           | 3          | 3          | 3         | 2          | 4          | 5         | 2          | 4          | 2          | 0          | 2          | 1          | 31          |
| Surry Hills          | 12         | 9          | 13        | 8          | 24         | 5         | 14         | 16         | 4          | 8          | 12         | 8          | 133         |
| Other LAC            | 13         | 14         | 11        | 15         | 16         | 14        | 11         | 10         | 19         | 13         | 14         | 17         | 167         |
| Internal Application | 3          | 2          | 3         | 2          | 5          | 7         | 1          | 5          | 5          | 3          | 1          | 1          | 38          |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>107</b> | <b>117</b> | <b>94</b> | <b>106</b> | <b>146</b> | <b>92</b> | <b>128</b> | <b>128</b> | <b>118</b> | <b>118</b> | <b>115</b> | <b>127</b> | <b>1396</b> |

The City received 1,396 applications for CCTV footage in 2014/15 financial, resulting in:

- 156 occasions where the applications did not fall within the scope of the program and were rejected.
- 856 items of footage being released to assist with investigation and prosecution of offences.
- 370 applications where no relevant footage was found.
- 8 view only requests
- 6 cancelled jobs (Police no longer required the footage)
- CCTV operators reported 6,381 situations, transferring vision to police on 1,342 occasions.

- CCTV operator were able to alert the NSW Police of an incident about to take place or taking place on 688 occasions.
- CCTV operators were able to prevent an offence from occurring on 229 occasions by ensuring a fast and effective police response.
- CCTV operators were able to identify offenders on 115 occasions, assisting police with the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

### Incident Type by Local Area Command

| Local Area Commands         | Sydney City | Kings Cross | Leichhardt | Newtown  | Surry Hills | Grand Total |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| Concern for welfare         | 1646        | 537         | 4          | 1        | 335         | <b>2523</b> |
| Emergency situation         | 33          | 1           | 0          | 0        | 1           | <b>35</b>   |
| Offences Against the Person | 1190        | 322         | 6          | 3        | 199         | <b>1720</b> |
| Police action               | 755         | 535         | 5          | 0        | 595         | <b>1568</b> |
| Property related offences   | 298         | 39          | 3          | 1        | 43          | <b>384</b>  |
| Public order                | 41          | 1           | 0          | 0        | 0           | <b>44</b>   |
| Special CCTV Operation      | 43          | 5           | 0          | 0        | 2           | <b>50</b>   |
| Threatening situation       | 10          | 2           | 0          | 0        | 3           | <b>15</b>   |
| <b>Totals</b>               | <b>4016</b> | <b>1442</b> | <b>18</b>  | <b>5</b> | <b>1178</b> | <b>6339</b> |

## Special Events

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

- Fairfax City to Surf, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014
- Blackmore's Sydney Running Festival, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014
- New Year's Eve Celebrations, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014
- Australia Day, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015
- Mardi Gras Parade, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015
- Anzac Day, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015
- Sydney Morning Herald Half Marathon, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015
- Vivid Festival 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015

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

- Joint CCTV Exercise

This exercise was held in August 2014, facilitated by the NSW Police Force as part of Public Place CCTV Review Working Group, to explore the various aspects of control and coordination amongst multiple stakeholders when tracking a person in real time across independent CCTV networks. Agencies participating in the exercise included: Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, and Sydney Trains.

The Program was also used to support the following police operations:

- G20 Summit
  - 11<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November 2014
- Operation Compello
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014
  - 15<sup>th</sup> November 2014
  - 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2014
- Operation Tepid
  - 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015
- Operation Simmer VI
  - December 2014 – March 2015 (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

Demonstrations and rallies managed under this provision include:

- Palestine Action Group - July 2014
- Anti-Israeli Protest – August 2014
- Palestine Action Group - August 2014
- National Day of Action - March 2015
- Reclaim Australia group - April 2015

There were 44 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**

As part of the City of Sydney's ('the City') 2014/15 Internal Audit Plan, Internal Audit conducted the mandatory annual compliance review of the City of Sydney's Street Safety Camera Program (the Program) as required by the Program's Code of Practice.

The review found strong procedural compliance with usage and provision of footage to others (persons or entities) and over physical access to the Operations Centre. It was noted, as in prior reviews, senior managers within the Security and Emergency Management Unit maintain a 'non-negotiable' culture with respect to policy, procedure and operating practices compliance.

A number of initiatives were noted, including the:

- ability to review monitoring and reviewing activity for each workstation;
- upgrade of cameras to digital to improve image quality; and
- ongoing review and update of key documentation (Code of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures)

Since 2009, the overall risk rating for all internal audits was satisfactory to low. On that basis, the Audit Team has recommended that annual audits be replaced with a two-year cycle of self-assessment against best practice in the first cycle, and an internal audit in the second cycle.

## **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 2014/15 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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