

# STREET SAFETY CAMERA PROGRAM

City of Sydney

Town Hall House

456 Kent Street

Sydney NSW 2000

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21



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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 106 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 \$2.93 million, comprised of:

- Salaries and Wages - \$1,900,000
- Plant and Equipment Maintenance - \$646,000
- Other Operating Expenses \$384,000

## Capital Works Budget

The City invested \$316,647 installing a trial of 360 degree cameras in 16 existing Street Safety camera locations and additional hardware and network storage.

These cameras provide continuous vision of the area immediately surrounding the PTZ camera which allows us to monitor the area even when the CCTV camera is facing in the opposite direction. These cameras have proved to be very valuable for our operators in assisting them to search for incidents and track offenders through the area.

The locations were chosen based in consultation with our Security Operators. These cameras are located at:

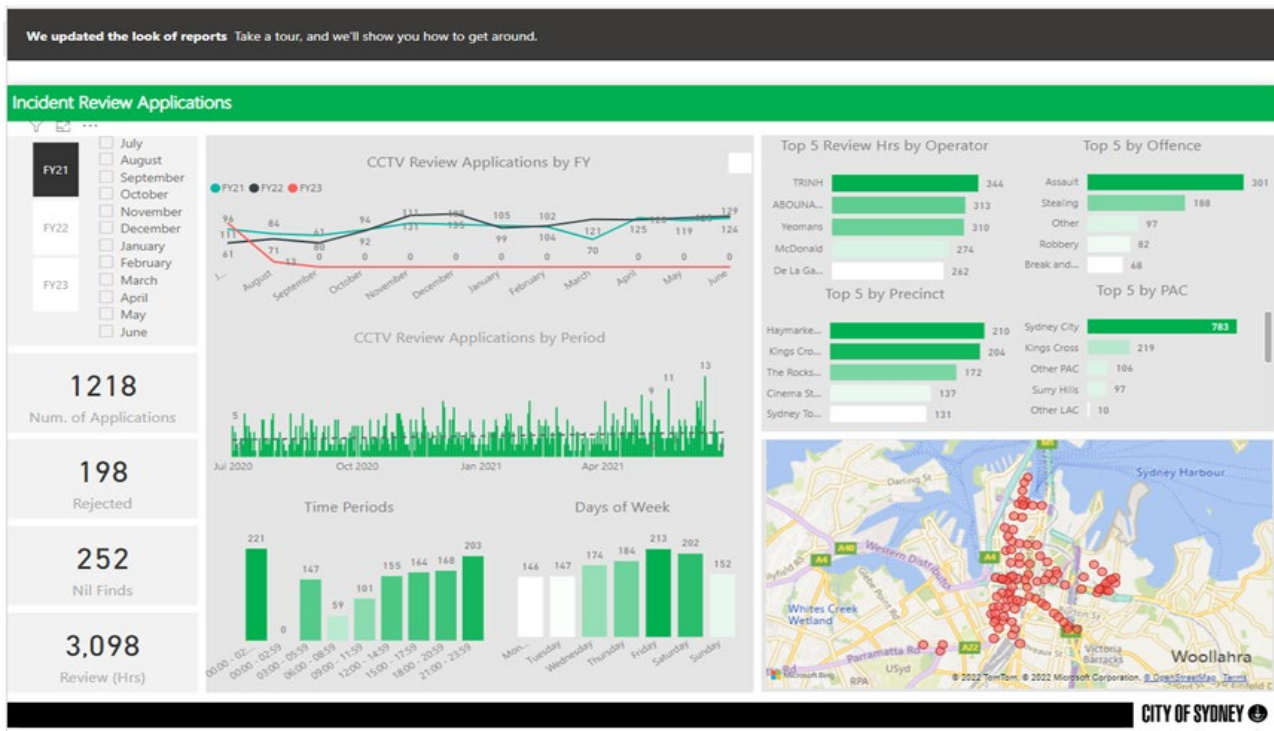
- George/King
- George/Market
- George/Park
- Pitt/Park
- George/Bathurst
- George/Liverpool
- George/Goulburn
- George/Hay
- Belmore Park
- Pitt/Liverpool
- Martin Place/Macquarie
- Pitt Street Mall
- Oxford/Taylor Square
- Springfield Mall
- Darlinghurst/Bayswater
- Pitt/Goulburn

## Operational Data

### CCTV Applications outcomes

The City received 1218 applications for CCTV footage in 2020/21 financial, resulting in:

- 768 items of footage being released to assist with investigation and prosecution of offences.
- 450 occasions where footage was not release because it did not fall within the scope of the program and were rejected or because the review returned a nil find result.
- CCTV operators were able to alert the NSW Police of an incident about to take place or taking place on 683 occasions.
- CCTV operators were able to prevent an offence from occurring on 37 occasions by ensuring a fast and effective police response.
- CCTV operators were able to identify offenders on 42 occasions, assisting police with the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.
- CCTV operators reported on 1685 situations.
- Vision was transferred on 1262 occasions to assist the police with their response and to ascertain the best course of action required at that time.
- CCTV operators invested 3098 staff hours reviewing and evaluating footage to assist police with their investigations.



### Incident Type by Local Area Command

Row Labels	Kings Cross	Leichhardt	Surry Hills	Sydney City	Grand Total
Concern for Welfare	149	3	53	460	665
Emergency				2	2
Police Action	14		7	68	89
Police Operation			1	6	7
Prohibited Drugs	1			3	4
Property Damage	7		4	39	50
Public Safety	127	2	63	584	776
Suspicious Behaviour			1	9	10
Theft	10		6	43	59
Threatening Event				2	2
Violence	1		4	16	21
Grand Total	309	5	139	1232	1685

## Demonstrations and Public Rallies

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 4 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 2021.

## **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 2020/21 as there were no changes to the policy or operation of the program.

## **Further Information**

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

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