

# STREET SAFETY CAMERA PROGRAM

City of Sydney

Town Hall House

456 Kent Street

Sydney NSW 2000

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19



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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 \$2.1 million, comprised of:

- Salaries and Wages - \$1,650,000
- Equipment Maintenance - \$410,000
- Other Operating Expenses - \$41,000

## 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 was completed during this financial year.

Project value: \$450,000.

## Operational Data

### CCTV Applications outcomes

The City received 1,481 applications for CCTV footage in 2018/19 financial, resulting in:

- 817 items of footage being released to assist with investigation and prosecution of offences.
- 564 occasions where the applications either did not fall within the scope of the program and were rejected or returned a nil find result.
- CCTV operator were able to alert the NSW Police of an incident about to take place or taking place on 591 occasions.
- CCTV operators were able to prevent an offence from occurring on 104 occasions by ensuring a fast and effective police response.
- CCTV operators were able to identify offenders on 28 occasions, assisting police with the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.
- CCTV operators reported on 1685 situations, transferring vision 531 occasions.
- CCTV operators invested 3653 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
Collision	4		2	10	16
Concern for Welfare	88	1	70	409	568
Emergency	1			9	10
Police Action	13		15	34	62
Police Operation	3		2	7	12
Prohibited Drugs	1		1	2	4
Property Damage	4	1	5	28	38
Public Safety	152		107	566	825
Security response	2		2	7	11
Suspicious Behaviour				14	14

Theft	7		9	61	77
Threatening Event	1			7	8
Violence	3		6	31	40
Grand Total	279	2	219	1185	1685

## Special Events

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

- City to Surf,
- Sydney Running Festival,
- Lint Café Anniversary
- New Year's Eve Celebrations
- Australia Day
- Mardi Gras Parade
- Anzac Day
- Sydney Morning Herald Half Marathon
- Vivid Festival, May 2019 to June 2019

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.

## 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 41 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 2019.

## 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 2018/19 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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