

STREET SAFETY CAMERA PROGRAM

City of Sydney

Town Hall House

456 Kent Street

Sydney NSW 2000

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20



Contents

Introduction	2
Framework for Operation	2
Operating Budget	3
Capital Works Budget.....	3
Operational Data	3
Demonstrations and Public Rallies	4
Lord Mayor Approvals - Exceptional Circumstances	4
Annual Audit Outcomes.....	4
Street Safety Camera Program Working Group	4
Further Information	5

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 \$2.21 million, comprised of:

- Salaries and Wages - \$1,750,000
- Equipment Maintenance - \$400,000
- Other Operating Expenses - \$51,000

Capital Works Budget

Asset Renewal – Cameras

The City completed a 3 year program of cameras upgrades. 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 1,443 applications for CCTV footage in 2019/20 financial, resulting in:

- 916 items of footage being released to assist with investigation and prosecution of offences.
- 527 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 operator were able to alert the NSW Police of an incident about to take place or taking place on 664 occasions.
- CCTV operators were able to prevent an offence from occurring on 65 occasions by ensuring a fast and effective police response.
- CCTV operators were able to identify offenders on 37 occasions, assisting police with the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.
- CCTV operators reported on 1746 situations, transferring vision 696 occasions.
- CCTV operators invested 3439 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	5		6	16	27
Concern for Welfare	90		60	492	642
Emergency				6	6
Police Action	25		10	59	94
Police Operation			3	1	4
Prohibited Drugs	2		5	6	13
Property Damage	6		2	29	37
Public Safety	120	5	55	593	773
Security response	2			9	11

Suspicious Behaviour				7	7
Theft	6	4	10	64	84
Threatening Event				3	3
Violence	3		7	35	45
Grand Total	259	9	158	1320	1746

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 51 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 2019/20 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:

David Cornett
Manager, Security and Emergency Management
Town Hall House
456 Kent Street Sydney
Phone: 02 9265 9333
Email: dcornett@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au