



REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

1. TITLE OF INITIATIVE / SUBMISSION:

Change in delivery of Police Services in the Narrung community and surrounding district properties.

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED:

The Narrung Police Station is located at Alexandrina Drive, Narrung, about 150 kilometres South East of Adelaide.

The Narrung police district covers an area between Tauwichee point to the North along the barrages towards Mundoo & Hindmarsh Islands, covering approximately 20 kilometres of the Young Husband Peninsula. The area also encompassing the Poltalloch Peninsula and Narrung Peninsula back toward the township of Meningie. The Narrung police district also cover's the Raukkan Aboriginal Community and surrounding area of Point McLeay.

The Narrung Police Station is staffed by one member, the officer in charge held at the rank of Brevet Sergeant on clause 14 penalties. Assistance when required is staffed by the Meningie Police Station.

Narrung's population is approximately 100 residents, most of this population residing within the Raukkan Community, the remainder residing on Farming properties set on the banks of Lake Albert and Lake Alexandrina.

An extensive evaluation of station workloads, demographics and alternate options to provide policing services to the Narrung community. This evaluation has demonstrated an ability to provide policing services using an alternate model. Therefore, South Australia Police propose to close the Narrung Police Station and reposition an officer within the Murraylands to assist with the policing needs of the broader Region.

Under this proposal, policing services would be provided to Narrung by the Meningie Police Station, supported by Taillem Bend, Murray Bridge, Highway Patrols and Police Community Constables. In particular, public counter and primary patrol functions will be conducted by Meningie.

3. REGION(S) IMPACTED: *(e.g. Local Service Area or simply attach map with affected area highlighted).*

Narrung & Meningie Operational Police Response Area within Murray Mallee Local Service Area.

4. STAKEHOLDERS AFFECTED BY THE ISSUE / INITIATIVE:

INTERNAL:

Commissioner of Police

Assistant Commissioner Southern Operations Service

Murray Mallee Local Service Area

Meningie Police Station

Taillem Bend Police Station

EXTERNAL:

Narrung Community

Meningie Community

Raukkan Aboriginal Community

Coorong Council

Meningie Police Station

Tailem Bend Police Station

Narrung Progress Association

5. **STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED:** *(Indicate who the consultation was with).*

Raukkan Aboriginal Community Council
Coorong District Council
Meningie Police Station - All members
Tailem Bend Police Station - All members
MMLSA Murraylands Workplace Consultative Committee
Local Member for Hammond (Mr Adrian Pederick MP);
Narrung Progress Association;
Country Fire Service;
Australia Post;
Transport SA;
Tourism SA;
Families SA;

5.1 **Consulted with the Regional Communities Consultative Council:** *(Tick appropriate box).*

Yes

No

6. **CONSULTATION:** *(For each consultation indicate (1) what process was undertaken to consult [e.g. mail-outs, presentations, advertisements, forums, public meetings]; (2) when consultation occurred; (3) where the consultation occurred; and (4) how many people attended the consultation).*

Targetted formal mail outs to each of the stakeholder agencies (5 above) were conducted in August 2012 inviting written responses to the proposal by 30 September 2012. Public notices were placed in local print media including the Murray Valley Standard and Lakelander publication at Meningie.

The Officer in Charge Murray Mallee met personally with the following:

- CEO Coorong District Council - 15 August
- Coorong District Council meeting - 21 August
- Local Member Adrian Pederick MP - 15 August
- Raukkan Council - Raukkan Aboriginal Community - 15 August

A total of one formal response was received from Coorong District Council acknowledging the proposal and advising Council raised no objections. No objections were raised by any other stakeholders and in the cases of personal consultation with the aforementioned, general support was provided for the proposal.

7. **SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:** *(Provide a summary statement of the impacts).*

There were no potential impacts raised by this proposal from any of the stakeholders identified in the consultation phase. South Australian Police has considered issues relating to crime prevention and detection; road safety policing; police response times; station workload; provision of public counter services; specific needs of Raukkan Aboriginal Community; impact on other regional policing resources.

Details of the aforementioned impacts have been discussed with key stakeholders and assessed using an alternate policing model over a significant period of time. The consultation phase of this assessment consolidated and confirmed the discussions and feedback from the community and stakeholders throughout the trial period.

This proposal seeks to provide policing services to the Narrung region via an alternate policing model, that includes:

- Patrol response and investigation from Meningie and supported by Tailem Bend
- Proactive Road Safety Policing from Meningie, supported by Tailem Bend and Murray Mallee Highway Patrols
- Continued proactive attendance at Raukkan Aboriginal Community by local Police Community Constables.

This model has been trialed for approximately 36 months and has confirmed its suitability for the needs of this community, and the neighbouring community of Meningie.

7.1 **Economic Factors:** *(For each factor describe (1) current status; (2) positive and negative implications of the issue for the region over the short, medium and long term; (3) jobs and jobs creation; (4) investment; and (5) affect on population).*

There are no significant economic short, medium or long term impacts related to this proposal. There are no other government services located within Narrung or small businesses that rely on local trade (limited to this community). The nearest location of local services, facilities and retail businesses is at Meningie.

One police position will move to an alternate position within the region, which is not anticipated to have any impact on the economic viability of the community. The government owned property at that location would be assessed in relation to the appropriateness of it being divested, thereby achieving a small recurrent cost saving.

7.2 **Social Factors:** *(For each factor describe (1) current status; (2) implications for access to education, health, justice or community services by town or region; (3) any social groups advantaged and/or disadvantaged; and (4) affect on people's way of life).*

There would be an alternate policing model used to provide policing services to the Narrung Region, based on the trial model that has been applied for the previous 36 months. This model is as described in the 'Summary of Impacts' (7) above.

Access to justice services includes an ability for the Narrung Community to access public counter services from police and for a proactive police presence to continue within the community. Front counter services would be relocated from Narrung to Meningie, and primary patrol response would also be provided by Meningie Police Station.

Meningie police will be supported by Tailem Bend and where necessary, other policing resources as appropriate to provide proactive and reactive policing services to the Narrung community. An increase in response times to Narrung is anticipated, but considered to be within reasonable tolerances and mitigated by existing hours of operation at Meningie, current crime trends and demographics.

Proactive road safety related policing will be provided by Meningie Police Station and supported by a recently expanded Murray Mallee Highway Patrol Section.

The Raukkan Aboriginal Community will continue to be supported through ongoing regular attendance by local police and Police Community Constables.

7.3 Environmental Factors: *(For each factor describe (1) current status; (2) key environmental impacts; and (3) flow on effects).*

There are no known environmental impacts arising from this proposal.

8. MITIGATION: *(Detail steps taken or to be taken to mitigate any identified impacts in implementing the preferred option).*

A trial of an alternate model of delivering policing services has been conducted over a period of 36 months to provide a robust assessment of the impact of this proposal on the local community. During this time, the alternate policing services have operated as described (7 above) and have demonstrated a consistent ability to provide a high level of service to the Narrung and surrounding communities. This new trial structure has mitigated concerns relating to policing services within the region and is the model that is proposed to be adopted.

Specific mitigation steps addressing the impacts of this proposal on the Narrung community have been identified above (7.2).

9. COORDINATION: *(Detail any inter-agency coordination or cooperation with other spheres of government).*

There are no other government services within the Narrung community. Most interagency government committees and services to this area are allocated at a regional level and as such there are no changes to the method in which inter-agency services are provided to this region.

Coordination of police services and resources to the Narrung community will occur as part of South Australian Police's ongoing assessment of the daily operational policing needs within the area.

10. STRATEGIES CONSIDERED: *(Provide a description of (1) all strategies considered; and (2) advantages and disadvantages that may be encountered in implementing them).*

There are two strategies that have been considered as part of this assessment process.

Strategy 1: Retain Narrung Police Position

Strategy 2: Change the method of delivering policing services to the Narrung Community

Strategy 1: Retain Narrung Police Position

Advantages:

- Optimise response times to the Narrung Community
- Local access to police public counter services
- Maintain a local police presence.

Disadvantages:

- The evidence relating to the workload, demographic and alternate service options to Narrung does not support a position remaining at that location. This is due to it not being the optimal use of police resources and the policing and public safety needs of the community can be effectively met using an alternate structure (7 above).
- The building accommodation and police station are not suitable to occupy and would require replacing at significant cost.

Strategy 2: Change the method of delivering policing services to the Narrung Community

Advantages:

- Timely response times to calls for assistance
- Crime, public safety and road safety issues will continue to be addressed
- A continued and regular police presence in the area
- Front counter police services provided at nearby Meningie Police Station
- An enhanced efficiency in the use of existing police resources
- Use of an appropriate alternate model that has been extensively trialled.

Disadvantages:

- The Narrung Police Station would permanently close
- One police position will be redeployed to another location.
- An increase in response times to Narrung.

11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT: *(Detail if the preferred option has any resource or responsibility implications upon local government).*

The local government area directly impacted by this change is Coroonng District Council. They have been consulted as part of this process and there are no known implications on local government.

There are no other local government areas that are likely to be impacted by this proposal.

12. PREFERRED OPTION: *(Outline the preferred option and describe how the consultative process affected the selection of the preferred option).*

The preferred option is:

Strategy 2: Change the method of providing policing services to the Narrung Community. to close the Narrung Police Station and move the position to Murray Bridge.

As outlined in this document, there were no issues raised during the formal consultation process to inform this assessment. This selection of this option has been influenced by the evidence and experiences gathered during the 36 month trial period using the proposed alternate policing structure. Significant liaison and consultation with the local community occurred throughout this trial to assess the impacts and address them as appropriate. Continued assessment of public safety, workload and demographic information has also, which has reaffirmed previous information available. The consultation has affirmed the suitability and satisfaction of the majority of the local community with the current trial method of delivering policing services (7 above).

13. SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES:

Name: Superintendent Ian Parrott
Posting: Officer in Charge
Murray Mallee Local Service Area
Berri Police Station
Ahern Street, Berri SA 5343
Date: 8 / 10 / 2012

Form: 30/08/2006