
NSW POLICE SERVICE

CAMDEN LOCAL AREA COMMAND

Crime Management Unit – Crime Prevention



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7 June 2012

DA 445/2012 Oran Park primary School, South Circuit Oran Park. Lot 1000 DP 1164435.

On Monday 21 May 2012, a Safer by Design Evaluation was conducted on DA 445/2012 – Oran Park primary School. The Safer by Design Crime Risk Evaluation was conducted by Senior Constable Christine Millman, Crime Prevention Officer, Camden Local Area Command.

In April 2001 the NSW Minister for Planning introduced Crime Prevention Guidelines to Section 79C of the Environmental Planning and assessment Act, 1979. These guidelines require consent authorities to ensure that development provides safety and security to users and the community. 'If a development presents a crime risk, the guidelines can be used to justify modification of the development on the grounds that crime risk cannot be appropriately minimised'.

The Guidelines contain two parts. 'Part A details the need for a formal crime risk assessment (Safer by Design Evaluation) to be done in conjunction with trained police, and Part B outlines basic Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and strategies that can be used by consent authorities to justify the modification proposals to minimise risk'. (DUAP 2001:2)

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a crime prevention strategy that focuses on the planning, design and structure of cities and neighbourhoods. It reduces opportunities for crime by using design and place management principles that reduce the likelihood of essential crime ingredients from intersecting in time and space.

Predatory offenders often make cost-benefit assessments of potential victims and locations before committing crime. CPTED aims to create the reality (or perception) that the costs of committing crime are greater than the likely benefits. This is achieved by creating environmental and social conditions that:

- Maximise risk to offenders (increasing the likelihood of detection, challenge and apprehension).
- Maximise the effort required to commit crime (increasing the time, energy and resources required to commit crime)
- Minimise the actual and perceived benefits of crime (removing, minimising or concealing crime attractors and rewards) and
- Minimise excuse making opportunities (removing conditions that encourage/facilitate rationalisation of inappropriate behaviour)

CPTED employs four key strategies. These are surveillance, access control, territorial re-enforcement and space/activity management.

- Surveillance
- Access Control,
- Territorial re-enforcement and
- Space/activity management.

Site Description

The proposed development will be located within the new Oran Park Township. School will be bounded by South Circuit to west, Dick Johnson Drive to north, Julia Creek and Oran Park Drive to east and Road No. 22 to south. Entrance to school off South Circuit, future Sir Jack Brabham Reserve, to the north.

School will consist of, classrooms, administration building, hall, canteen, car park, outdoor recreation areas and Special Education area.

Site Risk Rating

The NSW Police Safer by Design Evaluation process is based upon Australia and New Zealand Risk Management Standard ANZS4360:1999. It is a contextually flexible, transparent process that identifies and quantifies crime hazards and location risk. Evaluation measures include crime likelihood (statistical probability), consequence (crime outcome), distributions of reported crime (hotspot analysis), socio-economic conditions (relative disadvantage), situational hazards and crime opportunity.

After conducting this process the rating for this development has been identified as, Low Crime Risk.

Surveillance

Natural surveillance is achieved when normal space users can see and be seen by others. This highlights the importance of building layout, orientation and location; the strategic use of design; landscaping and lighting. *Natural surveillance* is a by-product of well-planned, well-designed and well-used space. *Technical/mechanical Surveillance* is achieved through mechanical/electronic measures such as CCTV, help points and mirrored building panels. *Technical/mechanical Organised) Surveillance* is achieved through the tactical positioning of guardians. An example would be the use of on-site supervisors at higher risk locations.

Natural surveillance is an important element capable guardianship. When supervision is lacking, the perception of surveillance can be created to deter opportunistic criminals. Offenders often scan their surroundings to see if they are being watched.

Objects, areas and structures capable of concealing an offender (especially near pedestrian routes) increase crime risk.

Recommended Conditions of Consent:

- ❑ The fences around the boundary should not restrict surveillance opportunities and should be constructed of optically permeable materials. Utilising the Department of Education Security Fencing Standards.
- ❑ Back to Base Alarm System should be installed.

Lighting

There is a proven correlation between poor lighting, fear of crime, the avoidance of public places and crime opportunity (Painter, 1997). Good lighting can assist in increasing the usage of an area. There is no information with the plans, which were reviewed to indicate the lighting proposals for the car park.

Lighting should meet minimum standards. Crime and fear reduction are specified as key objectives in Australian lighting standard AS1158 for public streets, car parks and pedestrian areas.

Effective lighting contributes to public safety by reducing fear, increasing community activity, improving visibility and increasing the chance that offenders will be detected and apprehended. The Canadian METRAC Group (Toronto City Council) recommends a 15 metre facial recognition test in public places. This yardstick is often applied as a non-technical measure of lighting effectiveness.

Walking from overtly bright places into dark places, or dark to light places can lessen a pedestrian's ability to see and recognize people, objects and colours. Transition lighting can help to reduce (night) vision impairment.

General Comments in Design for Lighting:

- ❑ Lighting should be designed to the Australian and New Zealand Lighting Standards.

- ❑ Public area lighting must be bright and even (to permit facial recognition of approaching person at 15 metres).

Recommended Conditions of Consent:

- ❑ A lighting maintenance policy needs to be established for the development.
- ❑ Any walkway lighting should be vandal proof.
- ❑ Lighting should be designed to the Australian and New Zealand Lighting Standards 1158.

Landscaping

Landscaping can be used to enhance the appearance of the development and assist in reducing opportunities for vandalism. However, landscaping can also provide concealment or entrapment areas for people involved in criminal behaviour.

General Conditions of Consent:

- ❑ Some predatory offenders, seek pockets and enclosures created by vegetation/landscaping. When selecting and maintaining vegetation, consideration should be given to the possibility of areas becoming entrapment sites in the future.
- ❑ A safety convention is to have 3 – 5 metres of cleared space on either side of pathways. Thereafter, vegetation is stepped back in height to maximise sightlines.
- ❑ A safety convention for vegetation is: lower tree limbs should be above average head height, and shrubs should not provide easy concealment.

Recommended Conditions of Consent:

- ❑ Landscaping close to the building should be regularly maintained to ensure branches cannot act as a natural ladder to gain access to higher parts of the building.

Territorial Re-enforcement

Criminals rarely commit crime in areas where the risk of detection and challenges are high. People who have guardianship or ownership of areas are more likely to provide effective supervision and to intervene in crime than passing strangers. Effective guardians are often ordinary people who are spatially 'connected' to a place and feel an association with, or responsibility for it. *Territorial Re-enforcement* uses actual and symbolic boundary markers, spatial legibility and environmental cues to 'connect' people with space, to encourage communal responsibility for public areas and facilities, and to communicate to people where they should/not be, and what activities are appropriate.

General Conditions of Consent:

- ❑ The boundaries of the development are reasonably well defined.

- ❑ Car park design and definitional legibility can help (or hinder) way finding. Knowing how and where to enter/exit and find assistance can impact perceptions of safety, victim vulnerability and crime opportunity. Signage should *reinforce (not be an alternative to)* effective design.
- ❑ Rear to kerb parking is recommended at all times. This way vehicles can drive out in forward direction, less chance of accidentally running over a child.
- ❑ Signs can also assist in controlling activities and movements throughout the premises.

Recommended Conditions of Consent

- ❑ Signs within both car parks indicating 'rear to kerb' parking.
- ❑ Signage also needs to be provided at entry/exit points and throughout the development to assist users and warn intruders they will be prosecuted.
- ❑ Signage in drop off/collect areas, indicating the use.

Environmental Maintenance

All space, even well planned and well-designed areas need to be effectively used and maintained to maximise community safety. Places that are infrequently used are commonly abused. There is a high correlation between urban decay, fear of crime and avoidance behaviour.

Recommended Conditions of Consent:

- ❑ As malicious damage (graffiti), and anti social behaviour are already known in this area, strong consideration must be given to the use of graffiti resistant materials, particularly on the fences and structures to reduce such attacks or assist in the quick removal of such attacks.

Space / Activity Management

Space /Activity management strategies are an important way to develop and maintain *natural* community control. Space management involves the formal supervision, control and care of the development. All space, even well planned and well-designed areas need to be effectively used and maintained to maximize community safety. Places that are infrequently used are commonly abused. There is a high correlation between urban decay, fear of crime and avoidance behaviour.

Recommended Conditions of Consent:

- ❑ The entry /exit to Porte Cochere should be clearly marked as 'One Way'.
- ❑ Drop off area with Porte Cochere to be clearly marked as 'drop off only no standing'.
- ❑ Exit from school car park near Service Vehicle Access. This must be clearly sign posted that it is an exit only from car park.
- ❑ Also heavy vehicles should be restricted in times to use. Should only be used out of school zone peak times morning and afternoon. After 9.30am and before 2.30pm.

- ❑ Entry and Exit arrows as shown in Drawing 11071-DA102-A, indicate arrows on wrong side of roadway. The entry and exit arrows should be in accordance with Roads and Maritime Services (normal road rules).

Access Control

Access control treatments restrict, channel and encourage people and vehicles into, out of and around the development. Way-finding, desire-lines and formal/informal routes are important crime prevention considerations.

Access control is used to increase the time and effort required to commit crime and to increase the risk to criminals. *Natural* access control includes the tactical use of landforms and waterways features, design measures including building configuration; formal and informal pathways, landscaping, fencing and gardens.

Technical/Mechanical access control includes the employment of security hardware and *Formal (or Organised)* access control includes on-site guardians such as employed security officers.

Recommended Conditions of Consent:

- ❑ A monitored intruder alarm system is recommended.
- ❑ Security gates should be fitted to the main vehicle entry/exit point to restrict unauthorised access to the car park areas.
- ❑ Computers should be locked in a secure room and alarmed.

Police concerns are:-

- a) Service Vehicle Access. This access is also the exit for the school car park. So times should be specified for Service Vehicles to access the area out of School Zone Times.
- b) Porte Cochere needs to have signs specifying drop off only so that traffic flows during drop off. Should not be utilised in the afternoon for pick up as vehicles will be backed up whilst waiting for their children to come out. There will always be specific exemptions and these should be identified and sign posted.
- c) Must be enough 'Kiss and drop' areas, and well sign posted.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity of inspecting the plans for this development and should you require further information on the subjects mentioned within this report feel free to contact Senior Constable Chris Millman, Crime Prevention Officer, Camden Local Area Command, phone 46550535. Email mill1chr@police.nsw.gov.au

Yours truly,



Peter Gillam
Superintendent
Commander
Camden Local Area Command

Disclaimer

The New South Wales Police have a vital interest in ensuring the safety of members of the community and their property. By using the recommendations contained in this evaluation, any person who does so acknowledges that:-

1. It is not possible to make areas evaluated by the New South Wales Police, absolutely safe for members of the community or their property.
2. It is based upon the information provided to the New South Wales Police, at the time the evaluation was made.
3. The evaluation is a confidential document and is for use by the consent authority or organization referred to on page 1 only.
4. The contents of this evaluation are not to be copied or circulated otherwise than for the purposes of the consent authority or organization referred to on page 1.

The New South Wales Police hopes that by using the recommendations contained in this document, criminal activity will be reduced and the safety of members of the community and their property will be increased. However, it does not guarantee that all risks have been identified, or that the area evaluated will be free from criminal activity if its recommendations are followed.