

Police have reviewed the proposal. Research as far back as 1999 has suggested mixed use laneways facilitate crime. Studies in the UK (Tilley et al., 1999; Johnson & Loxley, 2001) identified that laneways “...are synonymous with crime, fear of crime, litter and anti-social behaviour.” This conclusion can be applied to the laneways in Australia.

Generally, laneways in residential areas are poorly lit or have no lighting at all and are used as access and egress points by criminals to move throughout a suburb undetected, especially at night. In respect to criminal activity in Wagga Wagga they have been used by criminals to evade police after committing crimes. They are also subjected to littering and graffiti.

The total number of incidents in Tolland between 2019-2023 as of 1 August 2023 are recorded below, with a brief analysis provided below.

	Column Labels				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Incident	2527	2665	2859	2644	1353

- In 2020 there was a **5.4% increase** in incidents
- In 2021 there was a **7.2% increase** in incidents
- In 2022 there was a **7.5% decrease** in incidents

As of 1 August 2023, there have been 1353 incidents reported to police. This represents 51.1% of the total incidents in 2022. In comparison to last year, a similar number of incidents is likely to be reported in 2023. This may result in a small increase or decrease in incidents.

The closing of such laneway is now recognised as a crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) strategy to reduce or minimise the risk of criminal activity. It removes options for criminals.

A theory that is applied to crime is the ‘Routine activity theory’. This theory identifies three elements in any given space and time that will allow for a crime to occur, these are:

1. an accessible target
2. the absence of capable guardians that could intervene
3. the presence of a motivated offender

In theory if you remove one or more of these elements the opportunity for crime is removed. By closing the laneways that are the subject of this proposal nearly all, if not all these elements can be eliminated in respect to those locations. It will certainly limit reduce the number of access and egress points for criminal activity in the area they located.

With consideration to the information that has been provided Riverina PD support the closure of these laneways.



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 4 August 2023.