

**Admin, LACO**

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**From:** Cliff Frewing  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8  
**To:** Standing Committee, Community Development & Justice  
**Cc:** Tanya Downie  
**Subject:** Community Development and Justices Standing Committee : Inquiry into the protection of crowded Places from Terrorism Acts

Good afternoon

I refer to your email dated 20 April 2018, inviting the City to make a written submission to the Inquiry.

Please find the City's response to the invitation received to make a submission to the Inquiry.

**Inquiry into the "Protection of crowded places from Terrorism acts"**

The City is pleased to respond to the invitation to make a submission to the Community Development and Justices Standing Committee into the "Inquiry into Protection of crowded places from Terrorism acts".

It is acknowledged that the City of Busselton actively promotes events and activities under its tag line "Events Capital of WA". The City recognises that because of its location and natural physical attributes, Busselton is ideally positioned to host many of the State's top sporting, recreational and cultural events.

To illustrate the City's involvement in events the following information is provided as an example of the importance that events have to Busselton and the region:

- In 2017 , 150 events were held over a total of 295 event days.
- 25% of events were held off-peak (May- October).
- Total annual attendance was 220,000, including approximately 95,000 travelling from intrastate, interstate or international destinations. Major events included Ironman WA, Ironman 70.3 Busselton, Cinefest Oz, Gourmet Escape, Jazz by the Bay, and the Busselton Fringe Festival of Arts.
- It has been estimated that these events bring approximately \$130M into the region.

In addition, Busselton is becoming an increasingly popular destination for Cruise ships as a destination of choice. Over recent years, the number of cruise ships visiting Busselton has increased as follows:

2014/15 - 6  
 2015/16 - 7  
 2016/17 - 9  
 2017/18 – 10  
 2018/19 – 11 (projected)

Given that the largest of the cruise ships include internationally known ships such as the Queen Mary II which carries 2600 passengers and 1250 crew, the importance to Busselton of visiting ships cannot be overstated. Whilst the ships are anchored out at sea – some 2-3 miles north of Busselton Jetty, passengers and crew are ferried into Busselton and disembark (and embark) at a specially constructed deck on the southern end of the Jetty. Depending on the size of the ship, tenders can carry anywhere from 50-100 passengers.

It is anticipated that more than 6000 passengers visited Busselton via cruise ships in 2017/18 and this number is likely to continue to increase into the foreseeable future.

For the larger organised events – generally for those where it is anticipated that there will be more than 1000 participants a Risk Management Plan is required to be prepared by the organisers and is vetted by the City. It is important to note that whilst the City may make suggestions as to the contents of the Plan, the City does not approve the Risk Management Plans. It is also noted that in relation to the larger events, the principal funding State Government Agency for the event will also require the preparation of a Risk Management Plan.

Smaller commercial events and local community events are not required to prepare a Risk Management Plan.

In terms of management of events, the City's role is generally confined to attraction and facilitation.

Attraction involves sponsoring and marketing events. The City allocates close to \$1M each year for these functions and allocates amounts to individual events on application. Many of the larger events such as Ironman WA, Ironman 70.3 Busselton, Cinefest Oz, Gourmet Escape also attract funding from State Government Agencies and the City of Busselton effectively is the "Supportive contributor". The larger events held in the City would almost certainly not be held if they did not have the support of the relevant State Government Agency.

Attraction also includes the natural environment as Busselton is perfectly located as it face north and is situated in the tranquil waters of Geographe bay. The land is generally flat which makes Busselton a desirable location for running and cycling events.

Busselton is, for want of a better expression, the capital of the Margaret River wine region which provides an 'add-on' for participants and visitors to enjoy as part of the events held and is a key component of the tourism drawcard. The majority of wineries are located within the City's boundaries and there are a high number of tourist attractions located within the City (Jetty, Cape Naturalist lighthouse, Ngilgi Cave, Meelup beach, Eagle bay, Bunker bay and Canal Rocks etc) which all attract large numbers of people.

Facilitation includes consideration and funding of events. This may include assistance in the form of staff to assist the operating of the event and / or "in-kind" assistance in the form of provision of labour and materials for say road closure purposes. Many events, whether large or small and cruise ship visits can only be managed with the assistance of volunteer labour.

Almost all of the events held in the City of Busselton are held in the 'open air' and are in an uncontrolled environment which makes guaranteed security difficult if not impossible. Many events are held over relatively large distances which presents its own issues relating to matters such as participant safety and crowd control. For example, the Ironman WA event is in 3 components, a 3.8Km swim around the Busselton Jetty, a 180km cycling leg over a lineal distance of 45km followed by a full marathon over a lineal distance of 5.25km. Events held in enclosed spaces are subject to the normal 'bag search' procedures' and security guards are engaged by the event organiser.

Clearly it is not feasible to have controlled access (barriers) to the competitors course over such large distances and it is always a balance between competitor safety and public inconvenience. If for example, vehicle barriers were placed on all intersections for all major events Busselton would basically be in 'Locked down' mode.

All events regardless of size are required to make contact with local agencies such as DFES, St John Ambulance and WA Police for the purpose of notifying them of the event and give them details around expected numbers, nature of the event, timing etc, but also to allow the opportunity for the agencies to give comment and input into the planning process, and intervene if they foresee any issues.

## Cliff Frewing

Services

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***"Events Capital WA"***

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