

Item 6: Notices of Motion or Rescission

6.1 State Government Funding to fight Youth Crime

NOTICE OF MOTION LISTED BY CR PERCY THOMPSON

TO 15 MARCH 2023 ORDINARY MEETING

GOV400103, GOV400022, COS300028

MOTION

That Council investigate the possibility of obtaining State Government funding to do something about youth crime in our region, in particular Gulgong.

Background

The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government recently announced a \$36 million package aimed at tackling youth crime and keeping at-risk youth on track. Crime and vandalism are still occurring in Gulgong and we need to do something to steer young people away from this. The package is about driving real change and is something that we should be a part of.

Officer's comments

In early March, the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government announced a \$36 million package aimed at tackling youth crime and keeping at-risk youth on track.

It is possible that this funding would be dependent on the return of the current Government at the State election later this month.

The \$36 million package includes:

- \$6.4 million over two years to the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) model in Penrith and Wagga Wagga run by the Department of Community and Justice's Youth Justice team;
- \$10.2 million over four years to continue the Youth Action Meeting model in Coffs Harbour and Bourke, and expand the program to nine other locations across the State;
- \$6.5 million over two years to expand four key PCYC programs across the State; and
- \$13.6 million over two years to continue the Youth Justice program, Youth on Track, in seven locations.

At this stage, the Mid-Western Region, and Gulgong in particular, has not been mentioned as a potential beneficiary from this proposed funding. There do not appear to be any grant funding streams under this package that Council could apply for to support community concerns related to youth crime in our region.