



MEDIA RELEASE

**Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations**

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PLAN TARGETS CRIME PREVENTION IN PARRAMATTA

The Rees Government has endorsed a Parramatta City Council crime prevention plan NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

Mr Hatzistergos said the council is eligible for \$100,000 in funding, double the amount usually made available to local governments. The additional funding is available because the Government has identified Parramatta as one of six priority crime prevention locations.

“The council can now move forward in its bid to thwart crime and prevent anti-social behaviour in the Church Street Mall and surrounding streets,” said Mr Hatzistergos.

He said the council is planning to provide additional free bus services to drive a loop around the city area, specifically to move patrons of licensed premises to transport hubs.

“An effective way of preventing crime Parramatta would be to reduce the number of people who loiter in the city centre at night,” he said.

Mr Hatzistergos said the council plans to carry out an audit of lighting and blind spots in Church Street Mall, upgrade safety at council-managed car parks as well as other popular public areas in the city centre.

“The plan aims to reduce the incidence of assault, malicious damage and stealing from motor vehicles, retail stores and individuals.”

Informing users of the city centre about how they can reduce the risk of being targeted by thieves is another feature of the plan.

Member for Parramatta Tanya Gadiel said she welcomed the endorsement of the council’s plan.

“Parramatta has the sixth largest city centre in Australia; a workplace to office and retail employees and drawcard to thousands of daily visitors,” she said.

“It is important that people feel safe as they get on and off trains, park their cars, attend sporting and cultural events and walk around the city centre.”

Ms Gadiel said the council plan had been developed in consultation with police, community organisations and local businesses.

She said the council's innovative *Laneways Project*, which involves the use of art and lighting to improve the appearance and safety of city lanes will continue as will the graffiti rapid removal of graffiti program.

To fund the plan the council is now eligible to apply for a share of \$1.61 million in crime prevention grants the NSW Government has set aside in 2008-09.