

## Shire of Lake Grace

PO Box 19 Lake Grace WA 6353 | Phone 9890 2500 | Fax 9890 2599 | Email [shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au)



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Lake Grace Police Station – Potential Staffing Issues**

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On Tuesday 6 December 2016, we were informed that consideration was being given by the Great Southern Police District to reallocate the recent vacancy that exists within the Lake Grace Police Station to Kojonup Police Station, leaving Lake Grace to become a two man police station.

As the local community is very much aware, our police resources have been utilised in other areas for significant periods over the past 12 months, limiting a local police presence. This has directly impacted on our community confidence and perception of availability of our local police.

Reducing our police station to a two man station will place even further restrictions on the capacity of our local officers. Increased response times; a regular occurrence of non-attendance due to officers having to work in pairs, with back up an hour and half away; and community policing would be limited. In addition, consideration should be given to the size of the Lake Grace policing area; 7,267 square kilometres, with four towns within this area. The policing of such a large area, with only a two man station would be clearly inadequate.

An increased lack of a visual police presence on our busy country roads will have an impact on fatal traffic accidents - keeping in mind that the Shire of Lake Grace is central to heavy haulage traffic between Esperance and Perth, as well as local agricultural traffic during harvest.

There have been two recent incidents that have impacted our community due to the non-attendance by police. These incidents place additional burden on our volunteers and wider community in attending these situations. It is fortunate that police have been able to lay charges in both incidents.

Community support is required to ensure that we retain a three man Police Station.

ENDS

FOR MEDIA COMMENTS PLEASE CONTACT:

**Denise Gobbart | Chief Executive Officer | Shire of Lake Grace**

(p) (08) 9890 2500 | (e) [shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au)