The Stirling Police Station is located in Stirling and operates as a front counter service only. The Station is part of the Hills Fleurieu Local Service Area (HFLSA) which has its headquarters at Mount Barker. It is intended to modify the current opening hours of the police station from Monday-Friday to Tuesday-Thursday.

In 2011, a modification was made to the existing operating hours at Stirling Police Station. At that time the station was open Monday-Saturday and Thursday evenings. The 2011 modification reduced the hours back to 8.30 am-4.30 pm, Monday-Friday.

During 2014, a workload analysis was undertaken at the Stirling Police Station which indicated that on average only 3-4 customers per day attend the station. The most common types of activity is to report a crime or report a vehicle collision.

Due to the low volume of customer contacts, the station’s operating hours will be reduced by closing the station on Mondays and Fridays. The station will continue to open between 8.30 am-4.30 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The proposal maintains station service’s at Stirling but narrows the window in which attendance can occur. This will allow South Australia Police (SAPOL) to use its human resources more efficiently, with police officers used for other policing duties within the HFLSA.

The nearest alternative station services are available at Mount Barker (15 minutes from Stirling), Adelaide Police Station and Woodside Police Station, complimented by an increased number of services available online.
As part of the consultation process for this proposal, the HFLSA Commander held a Public & Community Engagement Forum at Stirling in December 2014. Concern was expressed by a small number of community members regarding the potential closure of the station. Once it was explained that the station was subject to a reduction in opening hours only, most were satisfied.

On 12 December 2014, a news article was published on the SAPOL News website regarding the proposal. The article invited public feedback and provided an email address. An article was also placed in the local Hills newspaper (The Courier).

To date, there has been no response from the community arising from any form of public media consultation.

A Regional Impact Assessment Statement has been provided for your information.

Should you have any further enquiries into this matter, please contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Nick Lombardi on 8463 6690.

Hon Tony Piccolo MP
Minister for Police

26 4 / 2015

Encl. Regional Impact Assessment Statement
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. TITLE OF INITIATIVE / SUBMISSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduction of Stirling Police Station office opening hours - Change in delivery of Police Services at the Stirling Police Station – Hills Fleurieu Local Service Area.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Stirling Police Station is located on Mount Barker Road in Stirling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It primarily services the local community of Stirling and nearby hills suburbs. The Mount Barker Police Station is a 24 hour Police Station which is located approximately 15 minutes drive from Stirling. Other nearby alternative police stations are Norwood Police Station, Adelaide Police Station, Woodside Police Station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Originally constructed to support a patrol base, the Stirling Police complex is a large complex consisting of car parking, office accommodation to suit a large work force; cell complex and front counter facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to December 2010, the Stirling Police Station had been operating as a front counter Police Station offering counter services to the community between Monday and Saturday inclusive, with office hours between 0830 – 5:00 pm daily and extended opening hours on Thursday evening to 6:30 pm. In response to reduced demand for services, in 2011 opening hours were modified and reduced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The station is currently only used as a front counter service and is staffed by two (2) part time general duties police officers. Since November 2012 the Stirling Police Station has operated with office opening hours Monday to Friday inclusive (not public holidays) between 0830 am- 4:30 pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When examining the best use of resources, the first consideration for SAPOL is always the level of service delivery to the public. Hence an extensive analysis of service delivery options was considered in relation to this proposal to ensure the continuation of a high level of service to the local community. The proposal does not impact on that, or remove the ability for the local community to attend the Police Station to undertake their usual front counter enquiries, it simply focuses their attendance during a narrower window which will provide opportunities for SAPOL to utilise its human resources more efficiently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During 2014 an analysis was undertaken which included the frequency and use of the Stirling Police Station by the community. This analysis determined that on average 3.6 to 4.6 customers would attend the Stirling Police Station daily to undertake a police related activity such as report a crime or vehicle collision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A subsequent proposal then proposed to reduce the opening hours for the Stirling Police Station to ensure both effective local service whilst providing opportunities for SAPOL to better utilise its human resources in an operational capacity.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. REGION(S) IMPACTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(e.g. Local Service Area or simply attach map with affected area highlighted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hills Fleurieu Local Service Area, Stirling Police Station local community will be effected by this proposal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>4. STAKEHOLDERS AFFECTED BY THE ISSUE / INITIATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERNAL:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner of Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Commissioner Regional Operations Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hills Fleurieu Local Service Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stirling Police Station</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mount Barker Police Station

EXTERNAL

Local Stirling and nearby hills community

5. STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

Indicate who the consultation was with:
Mount Barker Police
Stirling Police officers
Adelaide Hills Council through the Police and community engagement Forum
Adelaide Hills Neighbourhood Watch through the PACE Forum

Consulted with the Regional Communities Consultative Council:  □ YES  ☑ NO

6. CONSULTATION

For each consultation indicate the following:-
(1) what process was undertaken to consult (e.g. mail-outs, presentations, advertisements, forums, public meetings);
(2) when consultation occurred;
(3) where the consultation occurred; and
(4) how many people attended the consultation.

Flyers were distributed to local businesses and community members and were available from the Stirling Police Station. The Stirling Police officers undertook significant local consultation when undertaking beat patrols and when customers attended the station to promote the Police and Community Engagement Forum.

On 8 December 2014 a Police & Community Engagement Forum was advertised through the SAPOL Media and through various local contact points with the intent of discussing the proposed office hours modifications. This forum was held within the Adelaide Hills Council buildings and approximately 35 members of the community attended.

On 12 December 2014 a news article was placed on the SAPOL News site titled ‘Stirling Police Station proposed new opening hours’. This article provided the community with an email site to provide comment or seek advice. No email contact was received.

7. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Provide a summary statement of the impacts:

During the consultation phase one of the prime issues raised by some members of the community involved their fear of the Police Station closing. This option is not being considered and the fears were allayed. There was general mixed reaction to the proposal being submitted, ranging from acknowledgement of the opportunities raised for better utilisation of Police resources through to fears of ultimate closure.

During the evaluation phase of this proposal, SAPOL considered the most efficient and effective way to provide a service to the community whilst maintaining acceptable access for the local community. This proposal meets those objectives.

The proposal calls for the Stirling Police Station office hours to include:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday each week between 0830 – 4:30 pm
7.1 ECONOMIC FACTORS:
For each factor describe the following:-
(1) current status;
(2) positive and negative implications of the issue for the region over the short, medium and long term;
(3) jobs and jobs creation;
(4) investment; and
(5) affect on population.

There are no negative economic factors concerning this proposal.

The Stirling Police Station office hours will be consolidated to those days that the analysis found were the busiest existing days and excluded Mondays due to public holidays falling predominantly on those days.

The existing Police resources will continue to serve the community and made available to undertake other operational tasks for the Hills Fleurieu LSA.

7.2 SOCIAL FACTORS:
For each factor describe the following:-
(1) current status;
(2) implications for access to education, health, justice or community services by town or region;
(3) any social groups advantaged and/or disadvantaged; and
(4) affect on people’s way of life.

The review accepted that some members of the community would need to modify their behaviours to meet the proposed opening hours, however it was acknowledged that most community members attend a Police Station infrequently and as such they would attend Stirling Police Station based on their knowledge of the opening hours.

It was also acknowledged that many local residents of Stirling and the hills community are much more mobile and as such there are other Police Station options available to them.

Further it is acknowledged that SAPOL have in recent times provided greater opportunities for members of the community to contact Police via telephone or internet to undertake their business.

7.3 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:
For each factor describe the following:-
(1) current status;
(2) key environmental impacts; and
(3) flow on effects/indirect consequence of change.

None applicable to this proposal.

7. MITIGATION
Detail steps taken or to be taken to mitigate any identified impacts in implementing the preferred option:

Service delivery for Stirling and nearby hills communities will remain at the Stirling Police Station and as such no mitigation strategies are being considered.

Opportunities for community members to undertake business at Stirling Police Station will continue, likewise improved opportunities have been implemented in recent years for the community to undertake some of their business by telephone or internet.

9. COORDINATION
Detail any inter-agency coordination or cooperation with other spheres of government:

There are no issues in relation to coordination. The Stirling Police Station will continue their existing service delivery.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Detail if the preferred option has any resource or responsibility implications upon local government:

There are no negative impacts to Local Government.
11. PREFERRED OPTION

Outline the preferred option and describe how the consultative process affected the selection of the preferred option:
Two strategies have been considered during the evaluation phase of this proposal.

Option 1: no change to existing services.

Option 2: modify the opening hours to the Stirling Police Station to improve SAPOL’s capacity to maintain an effective and efficient service delivery for the community.

Option 1

Advantages

The only advantage to this option is for some members of the local community who wish to feel that they will always have a Police Station open to suit their own convenience.

Disadvantages

This option does not utilise SAPOL resources efficiently. The numbers of contacts per day seeking a Police related activity is extremely low and not cost effective.

Option 2

Advantages

By modifying the opening hours and reducing them to three (3) days per week rather than five (5) will provide SAPOL with the capacity to utilise its officers in an operational capacity. The Stirling Police Station will maintain reliable opening hours to meet the needs of the community.

Disadvantages

There are no disadvantages to this proposal.

The preferred option is to modify the existing opening hours for the Stirling Police Station by changing them from a 5 day office to a 3 day office (Tuesday – Thursday inclusive).

SAPOL CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES

Name: Robert Williams
Posting: Hills Fleurieu Local Service Area
Date: 23 / 1 / 2015

⇒ Forward to the relevant Supervisor
South Australia Police
REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

 Supervisor:

Changes Suggested ⇒ Return to Applicant
No Changes ⇒ Forward to the Assistant Commissioner / Director /
O/C Commissioner’s Support Branch / O/C Anti-Corruption Branch