



Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand

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**New South Wales Delfin Lend Lease
Master-planned Communities
Bingara Gorge, Nelsons Ridge,
Ropes Crossing, The New Rouse Hill
Pacific Safe Community
Application &
Site Visit Report**

June 2010

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Overview: Application and Site Visit Report

Name of Community:	New South Wales Delfin Lend Lease Master Planned Communities: Bingara Gorge, Nelsons Ridge, Ropes Crossing, The New Rouse Hill, Australia.
Date Application Submitted:	May, 2010
Date of Site Visits/Designation:	2 nd June – 4 th June, 2010
Accrediting Centre:	Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ)

Objective:

Review of application, supporting documents and conduct of site visit for New South Wales (NSW) Master-planned Communities of Bingara Gorge, Nelsons Ridge, Ropes Crossing, and The New Rouse Hill based on the World Health Organisation Safe Communities model, with the Pacific criteria adapted from this model by the Safe Communities Foundation of New Zealand.

Application Review Process:

Activity 1: Appointment of Peer Review and Site Visit team:

- Dr Carolyn Coggan, Director, SCFNZ, New Zealand
- Tania Peters, National Programme Manager, SCFNZ, New Zealand
- Geoff Wilson, Strategic Relationship Manager, SiteSafe, New Zealand Inc.

Activity 2: Preliminary review of all materials submitted.

Activity 3: Review of internet application summary.

Activity 4: Review of final application and supporting documents.
Preparation for site visit review and finalisation of site visit activities.

Activity 5: Peer review of revised Pacific Safe Community Application.
Preparation of Pacific Safe Community review report.
Conduct of site visit and designation ceremony.

Site Visits Agenda- Pacific Safe Community Application:

Day 1: Introductions, initial questions and response session between site visit review team and senior members from Delfin Lend Lease master-planned communities at The Bond, Sydney, New South Wales.

Day 1: Visit, presentations and discussions related to:
⇒ Bingara Gorge.

Day 2: Visit, presentations and discussions related to:
⇒ Nelsons Ridge
⇒ The New Rouse Hill.

Day 3: Visit, presentations and discussions related to:
⇒ Ropes Crossing.

Background

This application relates to the master-planned communities of Bingara Gorge, Nelsons Ridge, Ropes Crossing and The New Rouse Hill (also collectively referred to as NSW DLL master-planned communities). All four are located in the state of New South Wales, Australia and all were developed by Delfin Lend Lease (DLL). DLL is a developer of large scale, long-term, master-planned communities – creating highly connected and self-sustaining communities. DLL has been operating in Australia since 1951.

In October 2006 at the Queensland Safe Communities Conference, held in conjunction with the designation of Townsville as an International Safe Community (ISC), the DLL Chief Operating Officer announced the company's commitment to leading the way in the creation of Incident & Injury Free communities that would include participation in the World Health Organisation (WHO) Safe Community model. Operating Incident and Injury Free is a global vision and a core component of DLL project team culture, promoting workplace safety and engaging the community in the creation of safe places in which to work, live and visit.

As previously stated, the four communities of Bingara Gorge, Nelsons Ridge, Ropes Crossing and the New Rouse Hill are the subject of this application for designation as Pacific Safe Communities by the SCFNZ. An accreditation process provides, not only support for communities, but also an indication of a level of achievement within the field of safety promotion and injury prevention. SCFNZ encourages communities to see Pacific designation as a stepping-stone to the more comprehensive ISC accreditation.

The Pacific Safe Communities application and supporting documents for the NSW master-planned communities, was comprehensive (85 pages in total). The introductory section of the application provided a good insight into the master-planned communities. It also provided a good overview of the value of the Welcome Program and the collaborative work occurring to facilitate increased social capital through active engagement with residents, in creating and maintaining a community safety culture.

A review of the NSW DLL master-planned communities' websites www.bingaragorge.com.au www.nelsonsridge.com.au www.ropescrossing.com.au www.myropescrossing.com.au www.rousehill.com.au www.ourrouse.com.au also contained further relevant and useful information to assist the review team.

The review team considered that, in both the application and site visits, the time and effort that had gone into addressing safety was evident. Drawing on the review of the application together with observations from the site visits, the remainder of this report provides details about how the four NSW DLL master-planned communities addressed each of the six criteria developed by SCFNZ for accreditation as a Pacific Safe Community.

Criteria 1- Leadership & Collaboration:

Demonstration of leadership by coalition or group focused on improving community safety.

For over 50 years, Delfin Lend Lease (DLL) master-planned communities have focused on active efforts to enhance collaboration and establish partnership models in the creation of sustainable and safe communities. This was demonstrated in the New South Wales (NSW) Pacific Safe Community application review and site visit. Unlike a typical sub-division, the DLL master-planned communities are distinguished by the extent and nature of the amenities they provide, including extensive recreational facilities, places for social gathering, retail and commercial precincts, public facilities such as schools and libraries, and design elements and transport infrastructure that create a connectedness within the community. The National Environmental Health and Safety Manager, with active support from the Regional Environmental Health and Safety Manager, manage the Safe Communities programme at DLL.

At the local level, Project Directors work with multi-skilled teams including dedicated specialists in, community development, recreation and environmental health and safety. At each of the four master-planned communities that are the subject of this application, a wide range of community stakeholders are involved in order to address issues specific to their community. As indicated in the application (p 24), over 60 organisations and groups are community participants. Regionally, services such as NSW Police and Emergency Services, NSW Health, NSW Fire and Rescue Services, NSW Ambulance, NSW Transport, NSW Rural Fire; and Department of Education and Training are involved with the NSW DLL master-planned communities. The involvement of regional safety services in the master-planned communities was demonstrated during the site visit with many examples and supportive comments being received in terms of the way in which DLL works collaboratively to improve safety throughout NSW.

The site visit review team was also pleased to observe first hand the good level of collaboration that is occurring between the master-planned communities and the local Councils. From the initial stage of the development through to the extensive exit strategy, DLL staff work comprehensively with Council staff to ensure residents and infrastructure are safe. This was evident at all four master-planned communities.

Bingara Gorge is situated within the Wollondilly Shire, close to the existing township of Wilton. It is estimated that Bingara Gorge will have a population of more than 3,500 residents by 2014. Currently around 50 residents live within the community. The development will create around 450 construction jobs and 300 ongoing permanent jobs. The Bingara Gorge community will be serviced by a school, childcare centre, a community centre and a village centre with shops and commercial uses. In addition to the regional services and the Council, at Bingara Gorge the following stakeholders are involved: Kidsafe, Picton Rural Fire Service, Picton Police, Wilton Progress Association, Murcott's Driving Training and Youth Solutions to name but a few. The review team was pleased to learn that a Community Governance Committee is to be established to provide overall long-term governance structure.

The visit to the Bingara Gorge development provided the team with a good opportunity to ascertain how DLL, at the early stages of a master-planned community, works alongside the existing community to ensure that collaborative partnerships are established which focus on improving safety outcomes. Numerous examples of the collaborative nature of the relationship between the DLL project team, Wollondilly Shire Council Safety Committee and residents, particularly in terms of identifying and supporting appropriate safety design options were covered during the site visit. During the Bingara Gorge site visit, members of the review team were also provided with examples of how DLL master-planned communities transfer the lessons learned from one development to another. This provided further evidence of the adoption of a continuous-improvement model to developing sustainable and safe community not only at Bingara Gorge but at each of the DLL master-planned communities.

Nelsons Ridge is part of the new suburb of Pemulwuy, which sits adjacent to the suburb of Greystanes, about 30 kilometers from the Sydney Central business district. Nelsons Ridge has a current population of 1,200 people and is expected to grow to 4,250 by 2011. More than 40% of the community is dedicated to open space, with 22 hectares of wetlands and lakes, 10 kilometers of walking and cycling trails, three playgrounds, two tennis courts and two-and-a-half basketball courts.

In 2008, a group of residents from Nelsons Ridge established the Pemulwuy Community Group. This group, which has a primary focus on improving community connectedness, has representation from the local Council and DLL. The Nelson's Ridge community aligns community safety and injury prevention initiatives with the Holroyd Social Plan. One of the aims of this plan is 'A safe place for all'. During the site visit, the level of involvement of members from the community was evident. The site visit team would like to especially acknowledge the input by leader of the Pemulwuy Community Group, John Kropman who outlined the initiatives undertaken by this group. Residents and their families are involved in many of the safety activities underway at Nelsons Ridge. For example, the Nelson Ridge Safety Programme and traffic safety issues. This group provides a good basis for the building of social capital and advancing safety issues.

Ropes Crossing is home to approximately 5,000 people and is situated in the City of Blacktown, Sydney. Ropes Crossing is located 10 kilometers from the Penriths Central Business District and 22 kilometers west of Parramatta. During the site visit the review team saw the extensive range of community facilities and services available within this community. For example Rochford Place (Retirement by Design) which from its inception aimed to be part of a connected community. Ropes Crossing, surrounded by a 900 hectare regional park, has 29 hectares of open space, 16 parks, sports fields, playgrounds and waterways and over 25 kilometers of hike and bike trails.

The Ropes Crossing Community Services Inc. was established in 2009 to provide community leadership and support for community events. It is anticipated that this group will work in collaboration with the Ropes Crossing Safety Watch Committee on issues relating to community safety. For example, the Ropes Crossing community works closely with Blacktown City Council on the implementation of community safety initiatives that are consistent with the City's Crime Prevention Plan. Discussions with representatives from

these two groups provided a good example of a grassroots approach to community development that appears to be working well.

The New Rouse Hill community is located within the Baulkham Hills Shire, approximately 39 kilometres northwest of the Sydney Central Business District. The current population is approximately 400 people and is expected to increase to over 4,500 by 2019. Approximately 32 hectares of the 122 hectare community will be devoted to open space, including 11 neighbourhood parks, playgrounds, Caddies Cress and five kilometres of well-lit 'hike and bike' tracks. The New Rouse Hill community is serviced by a diverse range of community services and facilities including: a community centre, schools and a college, Town Centre, Medical Centre and Library to name but a few of the amenities. The Hills 2026 Integrated Strategy has identified community safety as a key priority area and aims to implement strategies focused on ensuring people feel safe in their homes and in public spaces.

The Our Rouse Community Association assists the Rouse Hill Learning and Community Partnership Board to support new and existing community groups and organisations within The New Rouse Hill. The site visit team would like to especially acknowledge the input by this groups President, Daniel Motbey, who outlined the initiatives undertaken by this group. Implementing a Neighbourhood Watch programme at The New Rouse Hill was identified as a key priority of the Community Committee. At the site visit the review team was impressed with the more flexible and informal model of encouraging community safety adopted for this community. During the site visit the lead role that the Our Rouse Neighbourhood Committee is playing in creating and maintaining community connectedness and involvement was outlined.

It was evident from the site visits to each of the four master-planned communities that comprise this application, that the DLL Project Teams draw together a wide-range of organisations and individuals with an interest in safety enhancement, in a collaborative approach to community safety. DLL staff provide leadership to the model, with strong support provided by the National and NSW Regional Environmental Health and Safety Managers, Shane O'Brien and Duncan Corness.

The application addresses the indicators for criteria one. The review team appreciated the way that the application, from pages 5-24, demonstrated the history, structure, roles, and strategic vision of the NSW DLL master-planned communities of Bingara Gorge, Nelsons Ridge, Ropes Crossing and the New Rouse Hill. These sections of the application provided a good summary that was further strengthened by information and activities at the site visit.

Criteria 2 - Programme Reach:

The range and reach of community safety programmes operating throughout your community/region, including an indication of the extent to which they are based on proven or promising intervention strategies.

The Pacific Safe Community application and site visit demonstrated the range of injury prevention and community safety initiatives underway in Bingara Gorge, Nelsons Ridge, Ropes Crossing and the New Rouse Hill with a total of 49 initiatives covered. Pages 25-33 of the application included information on some of the initiatives by age group, by environment (home, road, work, waterways) and by intent (violence prevention). Following this, activity snapshots provide further details on two of these initiatives. Appendix One (pages 59-80) of the application presents information on the 49 initiatives in tabular form. This table provides information related to: programme title and developer; what it addresses; population it targets; length of operation; reach of programme; results; and partners. The following is a list of some of the safety initiatives underway, by environment:

Traffic:

- *Bicycle Safety Checklist - Ready to Ride?* is a general checklist for cyclists in the New Rouse Hill. It includes tips about what to check on the bicycle and road safety tips. It is available on the *Our Rouse* community website – www.ourrouse.com.au.
- Park Assist is a managed car parking system operating at The New Rouse Hill. It promotes a safer car park for both vehicles, and pedestrians.
- The Ironbark Ridge Walking School Bus, located within the New Rouse Hill community, promotes a health and active lifestyle, ensures children can walk safely to and from school and teaches children about road safety and personal safety.
- The Ropes Crossing Community Bus was launched in October 2005 to assist local residents access to community services and facilities, local job seekers travel to and from the Ropes Crossing Skilling and Employment Centre, and community groups to attend special events.
- The Road Safety Education Park at Nelsons Ridge provides an opportunity for young bike riders to undertake simulated scenarios in a friendly park environment to assist them in learning about bike safety and road safety rules.

Occupational:

- All four master-planned communities participate in the annual Safe Work Week during the month of October. Work Safe week includes activities such as a two-and-a-half hour *Resuscitation & Emergency Care* training course targeted at adults and children that covers choking, shock, bleeding, fits and seizures through to poisoning, bites and stings, anaphylaxis, allergies, burns, heat rash and asthma education.
- The *Nelsons Ridge - Builder Safety Award* recognises construction safety and cleanliness. It was established in 2007 in partnership with the Pemulwuy Marketplace Retailers' Association.
- The *Environmental, Health & Safety Residents Incentive Award Programme* recognises individual contributions to either environmental, health or safety initiatives within the Nelsons Ridge community. It was established in 2008 with the support of the Pemulwuy Marketplace Retailers' Association.

School:

- The *Water Safety Calendar 2009* was produced as a result of a partnership between local schools, all four master-planned communities and Life Saving New South Wales. The drawings and paintings in the calendar depict a range of water safety messages from 'swim between the flags' to 'slip, slop, slap'.
- The Ironbark Ridge Walking School Bus, located within the New Rouse Hill community, promotes a health and active lifestyle, ensures children can walk safely to and from school and teaches children about road safety and personal safety.

- In July 2009, the Ropes Crossing Public School and St Mary's North Public School, in collaboration with Delfin Lend Lease, engaged students in a public art initiative around the construction site of the Community Resource Hub. Contributing artworks to 'beautify' the site during construction encouraged young people to take early ownership of the space and delivered important community safety messages on the hoardings surrounding the site.

Sports and Leisure:

- To promote a clean and safe environment within Nelsons Ridge, the Pemulwuy Community Association launched an annual *Clean Up Day* in 2009.
- Learn2, at Rouse Hill, facilitates access to a range of formal and informal learning options for the community. These include access to free training in resuscitation and emergency care training for adults, children and infants.

Violence prevention (intentional injuries):

- Residents of the Bingara Gorge community are able to provide direct input to the Wollondilly Community Safety Forum on issues relating to all aspects of community safety. These forums, hosted by the Wollondilly Council's Community Safety Committee, are held quarterly.
- The Nelsons Ridge Safety Program was recently established to identify opportunities to enhance overall community safety with a particular focus on youth. It is coordinated by the Pemulwuy Community Group.
- The Ropes Crossing Safety Watch Committee was established in July 2009. In partnership with local council, local emergency service providers and members of the local community, the committee was established to identify opportunities to enhance community safety and promote crime prevention and community safety within the local area.
- The Our Rouse Neighbourhood Committee was established in August 2009. The Committee meets quarterly on the first Wednesday evening of the month.

In addition to specific education events and initiatives, DLL also has a number of communication and community engagement mechanisms that are implemented within each of its master-planned communities to ensure that all stakeholders (including local residents) are continually aware of injury prevention and the various programmes and activities available to enhance individual, group and community safety. Two examples are the 'In the Safety Spotlight' newsletter which is produced monthly and the 'Welcome Information Kits' which contains both general items as well as important injury prevention and community safety information. At the site visit members were impressed with the up-to-date and comprehensive nature of the injury prevention topics included in the kit, as well as the range of speakers who participate in the welcome nights. The Welcome Kits included information on pool and other water safety issues, home safety, personal safety, child safety, road safety, being bushfire prepared, poison information and contact details for a range of emergency and other community services.

The site visit provided a good opportunity to observe the enthusiasm and commitment from a wide range of community stakeholders. The challenges being faced by these groups working to improve community safety was evident, yet the level of achievement through their collaborative efforts was a good example of "work in progress". At each site visit, mention was made that DLL makes every effort to understand what is driving other stakeholders involved in making Bingara Gorge, Nelsons Ridge, Ropes Crossing and the New Rouse Hill safer places to live, work, travel and play.

Site visit members were impressed by the presentations related to safety for seniors and crime prevention. These demonstrated effective collaboration using a continuous-improvement approach to building safer communities. However, the review team was

surprised that so many of the initiatives were focused on the provision of education, with few programmes underway which comprehensively address behavioural change. The site visit did, however, highlight safety initiatives not covered in the application. Additionally, the application contained little information of the safety design which is incorporated into all NSW DLL master-planned communities. This omission perhaps demonstrates the way the whole concept of safety is an 'unconscious competence' within DLL when designing these communities as numerous examples of safety design were highlighted during the site visits to Bingara Gorge, Nelsons Ridge, Ropes Crossing and the New Rouse Hill master-planned communities.

This criteria has been addressed as each of the communities do have a range of community safety programmes operating. However, the extent to which these programmes are based on proven or promising injury prevention strategies is unclear. This area will need to be strengthened to ensure effective community safety occurs. At the site visit reviewers discussed how publishing best practices/evaluation findings in peer-reviewed scientific journals could be used as a basis for dissemination of NSW DLL master-planned communities safety initiatives to a global audience.

Criteria 3 – Priority Setting:

Demonstration of programmes that target and promote safety for high-risk/vulnerable groups and environments

The application demonstrated that Bingara Gorge, Nelsons Ridge, Ropes Crossing and the New Rouse Hill master-planned communities have developed and delivered a range of activities that promote safety and prevent injuries to vulnerable groups in the communities. Children, young people, older people, those at risk for intentional injuries including victims of crime, people participating in sports and recreation settings and people at risk for injuries from natural disasters were all identified under this criteria. In the application (pages 38-44), a summary of the key activities was provided. Selected examples of the initiatives covered by criteria three follows:

- The Ironbark Ridge *Walking School Bus*, located within the New Rouse Hill community, promotes a health and active lifestyle, ensures children can walk safely to and from school and teaches children about road safety and personal safety.
- The *Strengthening Parents (Camden and Wollondilly) Project* developed a range of strategies to assist in increasing parents' capacity to effectively deal with the issue of youth drug use. Bingara Gorge is located in the Wollondilly Shire.
- A Youth Engagement Strategy was developed by the Rouse Hill Learning & Community Partnership to ensure the maintenance of a harmonious and inclusive environment for all visitors, residents and workers within the New Rouse Hill.
- Programs such as *Older, Fitter & Better, Fit & Strong 65 and Beyond, Walk 4 Life*, falls prevention, and general health and well being are provided for seniors in the Nelsons Ridge community by Western Area Health and the Nelsons Grove Village.
- Learn2 at the New Rouse Hill received a grant from Telstra - Connected Seniors - to conduct hands on training for seniors wanting to stay connected using mobile and internet technology.
- Blacktown City Council initiated a domestic violence prevention campaign through the placement of *This community says NO to domestic violence* signage at strategic locations throughout city. Ropes Crossing promote this key community safety message with signage placed at the entry to the community.
- *Report It, Don't Ignore It*, an initiative of the City of Blacktown Community Safety Coordinating Committee, is heavily promoted within the Ropes Crossing community. The campaign encourages and supports local residents to report crime and anti-social behaviour to the Police. The reporting pad is included in all new residents' Welcome Kits and is also promoted on the community website.

This criteria has been addressed. The review team was particularly pleased to note the emerging evidence of interagency collaboration occurring to address high-risk groups and environments and the communities' response to issues (e.g. Neighbourhood Safe Place and traffic issues in and around supermarkets). This section of the application provides a good description of the programmes targeting high risk groups and environments, as well as good collaboration by DLL Project Teams.

Criteria 4- Data Analysis & Strategic Alignment:

Analysis of available safety (injury, violence, crime and perception) data for your community/region and how they align with established national/state/regional priorities and action plans.

The introduction and criteria four sections of this application provided good documentation of the available demographic and injury and crime data in New South Wales (pages 5-12 and pages 44-51). It was evident to the review team that the project team at the four NSW master-planned communities also have a commitment to monitoring and responding proactively to injuries. For example, a web-based safety reporting system 'Safety Dashboard' provides a central reference point for all key safety data. This system found that at NSW projects, between June 2006 and 2009, there was an equivalent of eight days lost due to incidents, with the majority involving labourers and being categorised as slips and trips. The site visit team was pleased to see that, appropriately, project managers consider staff and contractors to be part of the community while they are involved in the development of master-planned communities.

This criteria has been comprehensively addressed through the provision of regional data on injuries and crime. While not comprehensively covered, the application also made reference to local or national priorities and action plans. What impressed the review team was that analysis of data at the master-planned communities is solutions focused rather than merely focused on counting the problem. The site visits reinforced the review team's impression that local knowledge allowed communities to be responsive to new and emerging situations. This is commendable.

Criteria 5 - Evaluation:

Outline of expected impacts and how they are being measured or evaluated.

This criteria has been addressed. Impact assessments, case studies and Risk and Opportunity at Design (ROAD) reviews, in order to assess their programmes, processes and the effects of change at the master-planned communities, have been undertaken. These have included: conducting research to improve social capital; identifying ways in which new residents might receive appropriate injury prevention and safety messages; and the ROAD reviews which are a mandatory part of these communities. Findings from ROAD reviews often result in changes to street design for traffic and pedestrian safety, water safety issues (e.g. the introduction of safety ledges and grab rails), and the application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles. Two evaluation reports related to community initiatives at Ropes Crossing and one at Nelsons Ridge provided further evaluative information.

Selected process evaluation findings summarised in the application include:

- Increased awareness within the community about water safety.
- Increased ability to prevent incidents from occurring as a result of the Welcome Kit.
- Less traffic congestion around schools and increased safety for children travelling to and from school as a result of the Walking School Bus initiative.
- Increased community preparedness for bushfires.
- Increased awareness of the dangers of falls and preventative action.
- Increased community connectedness and awareness of community safety issues.

It is important to acknowledge that many of the improvements are obtained from participant observation, with little data/evidence provided to demonstrate the changes. Given the stage of development, this is not surprising. Even though the application was able to provide a good description of research and evaluation measures used for some of the initiatives, the review team considered that further measures to assess the overall impacts of community safety initiatives could be strengthened. This issue was highlighted during the site visit with options for future directions being discussed.

Criteria 6 – Communication & Networking:

Demonstration of community engagement with relevant sectors of your community/region and ongoing participation in local, national and Pacific Safe Communities networks is required

This criteria has been addressed. The four master-planned communities have documented the local, regional, national and international networks that they are part of. Locally, project teams have established networks with a wide range of stakeholders. Individual community members are also provided with a 'Welcome Information Kit' that contains both general items such as a Community Services Directory as well as important injury prevention and community safety information.

Locally, residents from Bingara Gorge community contribute to monthly meetings of the Wollondilly Shire Council Safety Committee and quarterly forums of the Wollondilly Community Safety Forum. The Nelsons Ridge community networks and activities are aligned with the Holroyd Social Plan key theme of 'A safe place for all'. The Ropes Crossing community works closely with Blacktown City Council on the implementation of community safety initiatives. At the New Rouse Hill networks and activities are supported by the Our Rouse Neighbourhood Committee. Additionally, each local project team either currently, or is planning to, initiate the development of a community newsletter and undertakes regular community safety events.

The review team was pleased to note that members from the project teams have expanded their reach regionally within the State of New South Wales and have made a commitment to share best practices and new approaches with other communities in Australia. Regionally, since 2006, DLL has had a Memorandum of Understanding with the Queensland Safe Community Support Centre (now called Safe Communities Queensland Inc.) which includes a commitment to promote the principles of the Safe Community model.

Nationally, since 2008, DLL has had a Statement of Intent with the Australian Safe Communities Foundation Inc which includes an obligation to demonstrate a shared commitment to safety and injury prevention in communities across Australia. DLL staff have also attended national injury prevention and safety promotion conferences/symposium and strategic meetings. Nationally, a number of communication mechanisms to ensure that all stakeholders are continually aware of injury prevention and the various programmes and activities available to enhance individual, group and community safety are provided by these communities.

Internationally, national leaders from the DLL master-planned communities have been an active participant in, and was one of the sponsors of, the 17th International Safe Communities Conference held in Christchurch, New Zealand in 2008.

Overall, the review team would like to encourage the ongoing involvement, of the four NSW DLL master-planned communities, in Safe Community networks at the national and regional level.

Conclusion

Overall the four DLL NSW master-planned communities of Bingara Gorge, Nelsons Ridge, Ropes Crossing and the New Rouse Hill, are worthy of accreditation as a Pacific Safe Communities. This application is a good example of an alternative model for building safe and sustainable communities. Having a business actively facilitate communities to achieve the criteria for local/regional Safe Community accreditation is unique. The review team was particularly impressed with the DLL exit strategy, specifically the way in which the DLL members of the project teams work within their master-planned communities to identify and work with an appropriate local group of stakeholders that are able to provide ongoing support to building social capital.

On 4th June, 2010, the NSW DLL communities of Bingara Gorge, Nelsons Ridge, Ropes Crossing and the New Rouse Hill were accredited by SCFNZ as Pacific Safe Communities. SCFNZ would encourage these communities to view their accreditation as Pacific Safe Communities as a stepping-stone to International Safe Community designation. This is already occurring within these four master-planned communities, for example, the DLL project team at Ropes Crossing is supportive of the pending application by Blacktown City Council for ISC designation.

To be eligible for International Safe Community designation community applications need to comprehensively address the six indicators developed by the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion. Typically this means: having a community coalition with active leadership from local government and a minimum of six safety working groups; safety programmes addressing all environments, situations and age groups; comprehensive analysis of local injury and violence data; linking of local data to high risk groups and environments and targeted programmes to address the issues identified; robust evaluation measures to demonstrate the effects of change; and evidence highlighting how your community is involved in international and national Safe Community networks.