

# SHUT THE GATE on rural crime

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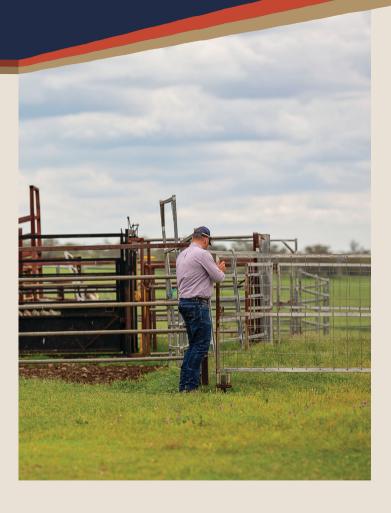
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## **RURAL CRIME**

Rural crime has a profound impact on the lifestyle, safety, and financial wellbeing of those living and working in rural communities. Residents in these areas often encounter challenges such as trespassing, burglary, illegal shooting and hunting, and theft of livestock, machinery, equipment, and tools.

### **RURAL CRIME CAN INCLUDE:**

**Opportunistic Crime:** Occurs when offenders take advantage of easily accessible items requiring minimal effort to steal, such as tools or equipment left near roads.

**Organised Crime:** Involves planned actions, often targeting high-value assets such as vehicles, machinery and equipment, or livestock.

Remote locations and their lack of nearby witnesses make rural properties particularly attractive targets for offenders, highlighting the importance of proactive crime prevention measures to enhance property security and reduce the risk of crime.

# ITEMS FREQUENTLY TARGETED BY RURAL OFFENDERS INCLUDE:



**Firearms** 



Workshop tools (drills, pliers, etc)



Machinery and equipment (chainsaws, generators, compressors, welders, tractors, etc)



Fuel



Scrap metal and copper



ATVs, quad bikes, and motorbikes



Livestock

### **RURAL CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES**

As a landholder, you can help prevent rural crime by following some simple steps to safeguard your property, machinery, and livestock including:

- Improving farm, household, and personal security,
- Ensuring all property is clearly marked for easy identification, and
- Reporting crime and suspicious activity to police.

# MARKING AND RECORDING YOUR MACHINERY AND TOOLS MAKES THEM HARDER TO SELL AND EASIER TO RECOVER IF STOLEN.

Engrave or permanently mark your property with information that is unique to you such as your driver's licence or Property Identification Codes (PIC).

# TRESPASSING OFTEN LEADS TO OTHER CRIME ON RURAL PROPERTIES SUCH AS WILLFUL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY AND FUEL THEFT.

Installing visible security measures such as closed-circuit television (CCTV), sensor lighting and clear signage can help deter trespassers and potential offenders.

**Strengthen Boundaries:** Maintain sturdy fences and gates that are secured appropriately and display visible signage such as, 'private property' and 'no trespassing.'

Secure Equipment and Machinery: Store machinery and equipment in locked sheds. Remove keys from powered items, and if left out, secure to well-anchored objects. Permanently mark items and maintain property records.

**Protect Fuel Tanks:** Ensure that minimal quantities of fuel are stored in areas that are difficult to secure. Light up tanks with security lighting and monitor with CCTV. Monitor fuel usage through flow meters or regular dipping.

**Secure Storage Areas:** Lock sheds, garages, and other storage facilities when not in use, and secure with high-quality locks and security screens.

**Enhance Homestead Security:** Trim vegetation to enhance visibility. Install high-quality locks and

security screens on windows and doors, and keep valuable items out of sight from passersby.

**Safeguard Firearms:** Store licensed firearms unloaded in a locked safe, with ammunition locked in a separate container, in a position where it cannot be easily accessed. Ensure safes weighing under 150kg are bolted to the floor.

**Technology for surveillance:** Consider installing CCTV, motion-activated sensor lights, and alarm systems around key buildings and vulnerable areas. Consider remote monitoring systems to keep an eye on the property while away.

**Monitor Livestock:** Comply with National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) tagging and transfer requirements. Keep accurate records. Report losses or theft to police promptly.

**Foster Community Connections:** Strengthen bonds with neighbours to share information, monitor activity, and strengthen mutual support.

### **FARM SECURITY GUIDE**

Queensland Police Service developed the Farm Security Guide as a practical tool to help landholders review their current farm security measures, identify potential security risks, and explore opportunities for enhanced preventative measures.



Access the Farm Security Guide online by scanning the QR code or visit police.qld.gov.au/RuralCrimePrevention



# REPORTING RURAL CRIME AND SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Many crimes in rural areas go unreported, yet every piece of information is valuable. Reporting crime and suspicious activity not only helps to safeguard your property and personal safety, but also helps to protect the security and safety of your community.

If you believe a crime is happening or if you see or hear of unusual movements of vehicles, people, or livestock, it is important to report it as soon as possible. Your report may provide crucial insights or be the final piece of information needed for police to solve broader cases and take appropriate action against offenders.

**♦** 

If a crime is happening now, call Triple Zero (000).



If not, think Policelink. Call 131 444 or visit police.qld.gov.au/reporting.



To report crime anonymously, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit crimestoppersqld.com.au.



## **RURAL AND STOCK CRIME SQUAD**

The Rural and Stock Crime Squad is a specialised unit within Queensland Police Service, dedicated to the investigation and prevention of rural and stock-related crime across the state. The squad consists of officers with specialised skills and expertise to address serious and organised crime impacting pastoral, agricultural, and aquacultural industries, providing a state-wide policing capability in rural settings. With teams strategically based in key regional areas, the squad actively engage with local communities and partner with government and non-government organisations to develop and deliver rural crime prevention strategies, supporting residents to be safe and feel safe.

### The regional team locations include:

- Charleville
- Kingaroy

Roma

- Charters TowersCloncurry
- LongreachMareeba
- Toowoomba

- Forest Hill
- Rockhampton

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

### ConnectCare

provides case management and counseling support for individuals impacted by non-violent property crime.

1800 574 066

Victim Assist Queensland helps victims of violent crime in Queensland recover by providing financial assistance, offering information, and upholding victims' rights.

1300 546 587

The Rural Aid Mental Health and Wellbeing

**Team** provides free and confidential mental health support to farmers and their families through trained counselors based in rural towns across Australia.

1300 175 594

**Lifeline Queensland**'s

crisis support line provides confidential and compassionate support for people in crisis. Speak to a trained Crisis Supporter over the phone, any time of the day or night.

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