

**SHUT THE GATE** on rural crime

# SAFEGUARDING YOUR PROPERTY, LIVESTOCK, AND COMMUNITY

Rural Crime Prevention Handbook



# SHUT THE GATE on rural crime

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This handbook contains only general guidelines. Queensland Police Service (QPS), in providing this information, makes no representations nor gives any warranty or guarantee concerning the safety of persons or property.

Queensland Police Service is committed to working together with rural communities to prevent crime and strengthen safety and resilience in these areas. This handbook offers practical advice designed to help landholders assess and improve their property security.

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Opportunistic thieves often target items they can carry away quickly. By implementing simple measures to secure portable items such as tools and small equipment, we can significantly reduce the risk of theft.



# 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](http://police.qld.gov.au/RuralCrimePrevention)



### FARM SECURITY GUIDE

This guide is a practical tool to help you review your current farm security measures, identify potential security risks, and explore opportunities for enhanced preventative measures.

It is important to remember that security changes may require some modification to your everyday behaviours. Locking gates and sheds as part of your daily routine, being conscious of where you store machinery, equipment and firearms, and reporting suspicious activities are all positive security habits. Although these measures may not completely deter all offenders in all cases, they will complicate their efforts, increase your awareness of suspicious activity in a timely manner, and aid in preserving potential evidence.

Where a specific risk to your security is identified, you are encouraged to consult with industry specialists to discuss treatment options.

EXTERNAL PERIMETER SECURITY:	NOTES
Are boundary fences in good condition?	
Are boundary gates sturdy, well-maintained, and secured appropriately?	
Are there visible signs indicating private property, no trespass, and informing of CCTV or other security measures?	

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT:	NOTES
Are machinery and equipment stored in a secure shed, preferably in sight of the homestead or an employee or neighbour's house?	
If machinery and equipment must be left outdoors, are they placed out of sight from the main road, visible from the homestead, and secured appropriately (such as trees) using heavy-duty chains and high-quality locks?	
Are keys removed from powered equipment, and is machinery disabled where possible?	
Are all machinery and equipment engraved or permanently marked, with identification and property records maintained?	

FUEL TANK SECURITY:	NOTES
Are minimal amounts of fuel stored in areas that are difficult to secure, such as within the paddock or in machinery located in the paddock?	
Are fuel tanks well lit at night with security lighting, and monitored by CCTV?	
Are fuel tanks dipped regularly and flow meters installed to monitor fuel usage?	
Are any suspected incidents of fuel theft reported to the police?	
Are fuel tanks positioned away from main roads and visible from the homestead?	

SHEDS, GARAGES, AND OTHER STORAGE FACILITIES:	NOTES
Are sheds, garages, and other storage facilities locked when not in use?	
Are windows and doors fitted with security screens and high-quality locks?	
Are the sheds, garages, and other storage facilities within sight of the homestead?	

For more information visit:  
[www.police.qld.gov.au/RuralCrimePrevention](http://www.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](https://police.qld.gov.au/reporting)**.



To report crime anonymously, call Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000** or visit **[crimestoppersqld.com.au](https://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 Towers | ■ Longreach   | ■ Toowoomba |
| ■ Cloncurry       | ■ Mareeba     |             |
| ■ 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.

**13 11 14**



For further rural crime prevention information and advice, including a range of downloadable resources to support you in safeguarding your property, livestock, and community, scan the QR code or visit **[www.police.qld.gov.au/RuralCrimePrevention](http://www.police.qld.gov.au/RuralCrimePrevention)**



**TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE SAFER RURAL COMMUNITIES**

