

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency/Life Threatening situations .....	000
Emergency – mobile phone .....	112
Emergency – hearing impaired .....	106
Police Assistance .....	131 444
Neighbourhood Watch .....	(08) 9222 1513
Department of Fire and Emergency Services (General Enquiries) .....	1800 199 084
Department of Agriculture and Food .....	(08) 9368 3333
Crime Stoppers .....	1800 333 000
Goodbye Graffiti Hotline .....	1800 442 255

To report information  
on suspicious activity  
electronically:

[communitysafety.police.wa.gov.au](http://communitysafety.police.wa.gov.au)  
[wa.crimestoppers.com.au](http://wa.crimestoppers.com.au)  
[nhw.wa.gov.au](http://nhw.wa.gov.au)

### Community Engagement Division

WA Police  
Level 3, 2 Adelaide Terrace. Perth, WA 6000

**Telephone:** 08 9222 1300

**Email:** [community.engagement.division@police.wa.gov.au](mailto:community.engagement.division@police.wa.gov.au)

**Website:** [communitysafety.police.wa.gov.au](http://communitysafety.police.wa.gov.au)



## RURAL CRIME PREVENTION

Protecting your rural property from crime





## DESIGNING OUT CRIME

Research indicates that opportunity and visibility are key factors for thieves. If thieves believe they can get into and out of your property easily and without being seen, your property is at higher risk.

- Consider visibility when designing and erecting new buildings, sheds or stockyards. (Ideally these should be in sight of a farm house).
- Prevent accessibility to your property. Gates should be as strong as possible, mounted securely to strong corner posts. Secure gates with heavy duty chains and locks.
- If possible, use heavy duty rollers or metal gates at the entrance to sheds and any outbuildings.
- Consider the installation of movement sensed cameras or closed circuit television (CCTV) if practical. This can assist in the successful identification and prosecution of offenders.

## SECURING FARM MACHINERY

- If necessary to leave machinery on site overnight, leave it in view of a farmhouse or highly visible area. Where this is not practical, park out of sight of any passing traffic.
- Where possible, store farm machinery in a secure shed or enclosure – preferably in sight of a farm house.
- Disable equipment by removing the distributor cap, rotor or battery where necessary.
- Secure equipment with heavy chains and quality locks. Either chain and lock pieces of equipment together; to trees or other stationary objects; or chain the rear of vehicle to the front wheel/axle.
- **ALWAYS** lock vehicles and machinery.
- **NEVER** attempt to hide the keys in a location nearby.
- **NEVER** leave valuable items displayed inside a vehicle or leave tools and other items scattered in vehicle trays. If a tool box is attached, secure the contents with a quality padlock.

## LIVESTOCK THEFT

Western Australia has a mandatory livestock ownership identification and movement system. All livestock owners within the state must be registered and their stock identified in accordance with the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (IMSA) regulations 2013.

- Keep all paddocks, shed and stockyard gates closed and locked. Use locking posts to obstruct large openings to yards.
  - Ditches form a natural barrier. Cattle grids can be removed and locked out of position when not in use.
  - If possible, locate stockyards/loading ramps away from public road and any entrance to your property. Ensure loading ramps are stored out of sight when not in use.
- \* For further information see [m1a.com.au](http://m1a.com.au) or [agric.wa.gov.au/lovestock](http://agric.wa.gov.au/lovestock)



**Regularly check stock. Also check paddocks and fences for any signs of trespass and/or damage.**

## PROPERTY MARKING

Property marking deters theft and makes selling of stolen goods harder. There are a number of options for marking property:

- **Hard etching** · **Welding** · **Etching** · **Metal punching**
- **Chemical marking** · **Property registration**
- **Microdot technology** · **Microchip technology**

A useful identification is to mark equipment with your driver's licence number followed by the letters 'WA' for your State. Alternatively, use your property's stock brand.



- Maintain a complete list of all property and stock with descriptions of colour, serial numbers, unique markings and ID numbers.
- Photographs or videos make excellent supporting documents, and can be useful to describe an item or animal. Keep these in a secure location.
- Advertise that your property has been marked by attaching labels on machinery and buildings.
- If selling your equipment, notify the new owner that you have marked your equipment with an ID number and suggest they put their mark below yours.

## FUEL TANK SECURITY

With today's advanced technology it is possible to have remote notification of your fuel levels. Mobile and email applications are available to alert the owner to any use of fuel, generally for a small set up fee. Movement alarms can also be effective in reducing risk of fuel theft.

- Have fuel tanks located out of sight of passing traffic and if possible, consider locating tanks underground.

- Ensure tank cut-off valves and pump are securely locked. Locate any switches in a locked building and turn off power to pumps when not in use.
- Monitor fuel usage and keep up to date records in order to recognise any unexplained loss.
- Place signs at entrance points to your property and on fuel tanks to warn offenders of the security measures in place and that fuels are monitored effectively.
- Fuel dyes can be effective in preventing theft and can be sourced from your local agricultural supplier.



## FIREARM SAFETY

Firearms and ammunition must be locked in a secure cabinet or container which meets specified regulations.

- Ammunition and firearms cannot be stored together unless ammunition is in a separate locked container to the firearm.
- A magazine is not to contain any ammunition when stored.
- Storage cabinet or container must be securely anchored.
- Consider the location of your firearm/ammunition storage. If possible do not fit them in an obvious area. The garage **is not** a recommended placement.
- **Never** leave firearms or ammunition in your vehicle unattended.

**“A cabinet or container that can be unlocked with a key is to be regarded as unlocked if the key is left in the lock or is otherwise accessible where the cabinet or container is located”** Firearms Regulations 1974 11A.(3)



# PREVENTION STRATEGIES

There are several measures you can take to protect your property and reduce risk.

- Maintain an accurate inventory of all your vehicles and machinery including: registration; chassis and model numbers; and VIN numbers.
- Photograph or video machinery and valuables to enable easy identification.
- Ensure livestock comply with identification regulations.
- Mark all machinery and property, an easy record is to use your driver's license number or stock identification number. This can be done by:
  - Etching · Engraving · Metal punch · Microchip
  - Microdot technology · UV Markings

**Note:** Remember to advise any new owner should you sell the equipment and suggest that they place their identification below yours.

**SIGNS** should be placed at entrance points to your property advising that it is 'Private Property' and that 'Trespassers will be Prosecuted'.

- Warn intruders of security measures used on your property: electronic monitoring; sensor lights; guard dogs and identification markings.
- Ensure you use quality chain and padlocks on all gates and sheds.
- If it is necessary to leave equipment on site, ensure that it is secured and cannot be seen by passing traffic.

## REPORTING A CRIME

Report any crime or suspicious activity to police – no matter how small you believe it is. Your information may be the missing link to identifying a larger crime ring.

Suspicious activity may be related to clan laboratories; illicit drug cultivation; theft from dams; etc. Try to have as much information recorded as possible to the event/s to help police identify offenders.

**When reporting a crime you may be asked for:**

- What exactly has been stolen and what is the value of it?

- What is the address where the incident has taken place?
- What is the registration number of the vehicle? (If the property stolen is a vehicle).
- Were any weapons involved? Describe the weapon/s (if the incident is related to stealing with violence) or if firearms have been stolen.
- Livestock: the breed, age and sex of the animals; identification used; where stock was located.  
**NB:** It is also important to let the police know should you find your stock again.



### HOW TO REPORT A CRIME:

Local Police: **131 444**  
Crime Stoppers: **1800 333 000** or [wa.crimestoppers.com.au](http://wa.crimestoppers.com.au)

## RURAL WATCH

**Rural Watch includes people and businesses in every corner of Western Australia. With this vast expanse, reducing the incidence of preventable crime and preserving your way of life is essential.**

Rural Watch is part of the successful Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) program which also includes Marine Watch and School Watch.

Neighbourhood Watch is about you, your local neighbourhood, the wider community and the WA Police working together to establish and maintain a safer community by:

- Preventing crime that affects you
- Reducing violence, crime and fear
- Building a safer community
- Developing stronger community ties

For further information on Neighbourhood Watch and protecting your property go to [nhw.wa.gov.au](http://nhw.wa.gov.au) or call **(08) 9222 1513**.

