



# Rural Crime Fact Sheet

Below is a guide to rural crime and how you can help deter and prevent rural crime in your community.

**ILLEGAL HUNTING** affects everyone. The damage to farmers' property can potentially run into thousands of dollars and include injury or death of livestock, damage to fences and crops, or straying stock.

**What can you do:**

- Record all incidents of illegal hunting on your property.
- Where possible, install quality farm cameras.
- Lock gates and use warning 'Private Property', 'No Trespass', 'No hunting' signs on gates and fences.
- Photograph offenders / vehicles, only if this can be done safely.

**STOCK THEFT** has seen more than 20,000 individual head of stock stolen from NSW farms, with the loss of sheep and cattle alone costing farmers over \$3.2 million (source: NSW Police 2018). The impact on rural families is devastating as they struggle with drought conditions and to make a living to put food on the table.

**What can you do:**

- Monitor your livestock.
- Lock gates.
- Identify all livestock upon receipt or soon after birth using permanent registered forms of identification.
- Keep accurate records of your livestock movement and identification markers.
- Regularly check livestock and report suspected stock theft immediately.

**TRESPASSING** - the spreading of disease is one of the biggest concerns when it comes to entering farms without permission. Diseases like Asian flu can be carried from farm to farm and becomes a biosecurity issue. Currently, Australia has the highest biosecurity standards in the world. The spreading of disease not only harms the animals but affects farmers' income and ultimately becomes a health hazard for consumers.

**What can you do:**

- Mount gates at entrances to the property and other high-risk areas securely to strong posts and lock.
- Lock gates – with heavy duty chains or padlocks - and place 'Private Property' or 'No Trespass' signs on gates and fences.
- Photograph offenders / vehicles, only if this can be done safely.
- Install security lighting and consider installing security cameras around the homestead, shed and entrance points to your property.
- Check fences for damage on a regular basis, pay attention to slack wiring and investigate the cause, repair damaged fences as soon as possible.
- If possible, install quality farm cameras.

**FIREARM THEFT** - ensure guns are stored correctly in gun safes that are bolted or fixed to the property, comply with legislation and keep your gun safe key on your person and not hidden at your property.

**What can you do:**

- Ensure the premises where you store your firearms are solid with sturdy lockable doors and windows.
- Ensure your gun safe key is kept on your person, lock ammunition in a container kept separate to the firearms.
- Check your firearms regularly.
- Do not advertise you have firearms eg social media, open discussions in public places, showing your firearms to others.

**Any piece of information, anything you have seen or heard, may be crucial in preventing or solving a crime. We don't want to know who you are; we just want to know what you know.**