

Question on Notice
No. 752
Asked on Thursday, 11 May 2006

Mr Hayward asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)

QUESTION:

“With reference to the recent Community Awareness Days in Pine Rivers and Caboolture, where I understand police fitted one-way screws to a number of vehicles-

Will she advise how these screws work to help prevent crime and where member’s of the public can access these screws?”

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police is tightening the screws on number plate thieves. The trial project is called “Turning the Screws on Crime”.

Police are providing free 'one-way' screws for number plates, which cannot be removed using conventional tools. This proactive project is designed to eliminate or significantly reduce the ability of criminals to disguise a stolen or unregistered vehicle with false number plates, making it more difficult for them to avoid police detection.

The project is aimed at raising awareness of number plate theft, through the distribution of literature and one-way screws to members of the community in order to deter potential offenders from stealing number plates and to make stealing number plates more difficult.

This project is supported by Bunning's Group Ltd through the provision of one-way screws and venues to conduct “Turn the Screws on Crime Campaigns”.

The project has been well advertised in print media, radio and in the Bunning’s stores selected to host the community awareness campaigns.

Numberplate theft costs countless Queenslanders thousands of dollars each year. They are typically stolen for their use in more serious crimes such as break and enters, robberies and service station drive-offs.

Over the next six months, motorists will be able to attend community awareness days at Bunnings hardware stores in North Brisbane, Pine Rivers and Redcliffe police districts where they can have the screws fitted free of charge.

Community awareness days have been held on:

- April 8 – Carseldine
- April 22 – Lawnton and Morayfield
- April 29 – Rothwell
- May 6 – Stafford
- May 19 – Kallangur
- May 26 – Pine Rivers

The six month trial project had been selected for the area following increasing rates of number plate theft in those suburbs. Last year, between January and September, 107 number plates were stolen in the Pine Rivers District. In Pine Rivers, 25 per cent of all stolen number plates were used in drive-off offences. During the same period last year, 492 number plates were stolen in North Brisbane.