

# Environmental criminology and crime prevention

A crime occurs when the following four elements come together:

1. a law
2. an offender
3. a victim or target and
4. a place.

Environmental criminology focuses on the last element – place (and the time the crime occurred).

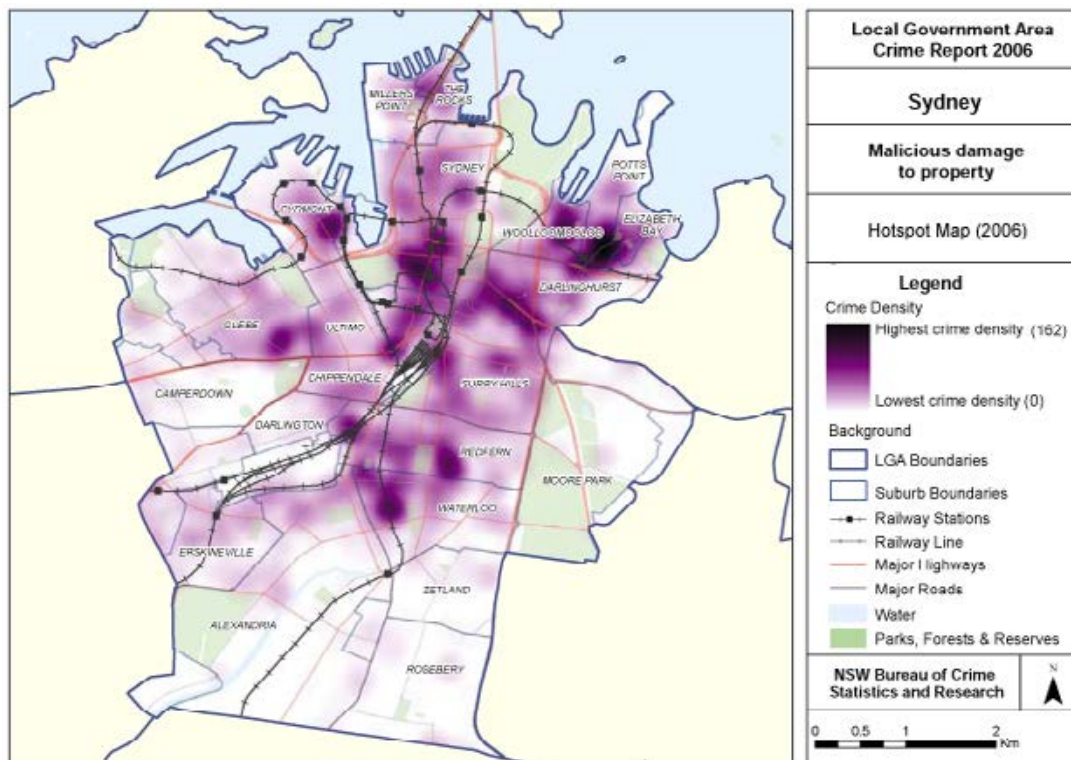
Environmental criminology is the study of how crime, the offender and victimisation relate, first, to particular places, and secondly, to the way that individuals and organisations shape their activities within or around that place.

Unlike other methods of crime prevention that focus on the ‘underlying factors’ of crime, environmental criminology concentrates on the crime itself, emphasising the significance of the “place” in generating the occurrence of crime.

Mapping is often used to define and determining crime patterns in environmental criminology. Maps assist in associating crime with land usage, traffic patterns, street/urban design, and the daily activities and movements of victims and offenders.

## Further information

For more information on crime prevention theories and methodologies, please visit [www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au](http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au)



Left: NSW Bureau of Crime and Statistics Research hotspot map for malicious damage to property incidents in Sydney, 2006.