



Suburban Street parking audit

This audit has been developed to help Councils lower the risk of steal from motor vehicle offences occurring in hot spot areas and to identify possible treatment options to reduce the risk.

Most Councils have maintenance plans for their residential and commercial streets. Often crime prevention outcomes can be achieved by revisiting these plans from a crime prevention perspective.

Street parking audit of _____
[insert name of location]

at _____ [insert street names]

Sightlines

Question	Yes	No	Comments
Are there unobstructed views of the parked cars?			
Is landscaping maintained to maximise visibility in the street and from surrounding houses and businesses?			

- Are there areas on the street where a perpetrator could hide?
- Look for obstructions that might hinder natural surveillance provided by passers-by. Clear sightlines help to reduce concealment opportunities for offenders.
- Regularly maintain the landscaping to ensure that trees and shrubs are trimmed to reduce opportunities for concealment and increase visibility in the street. Ideally, landscaping should be above head height and below waist height.

Surveillance

Question	Yes	No	Comments
Is there long term parking (e.g. all day) or short term parking (e.g. 2 hours)?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Vehicles parked in long stay parking are more vulnerable to crime than vehicles in shorter term parking. Short term parking can assist in providing natural surveillance due to the higher turnover of vehicles. Regular patrols by rangers on limited parking areas provides semi formal surveillance. Consider providing a mixture of long term and short term parking to enhance natural surveillance. 			
Is the street a busy thoroughfare for pedestrian and vehicular traffic?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pedestrian and vehicular traffic all provide natural surveillance. Areas that are not as busy can give more time for a perpetrator to commit an offence. 			
Is there any regular maintenance work carried out in the area e.g. landscaping, rubbish removal?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regular maintenance work could include the removal of graffiti, maintaining and preparing light fixtures and removing rubbish. This can provide informal surveillance as the maintenance crew make their way through the street. 			

Lighting

Question	Yes	No	Comments
Is there lighting in the area?			
Is the lighting operational?			
Are the lights bright enough to enable you to see into the rear seat of a parked vehicle?			
Are there dark shadowy areas on the street?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lighting plays an important role in preventing crime. It improves visibility and can increase the risk of offender detection. Good levels of lighting are an important factor in reducing the fear of crime. It can change community perception of an area, which can lead to increased usage and facilitates informal surveillance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A lighting engineer should be consulted to obtain best results. ◆ Lighting should at least meet minimum requirements under Australian Standards (AS 1158 for external lighting and AS 1680 for interior lighting). ◆ Light fixtures should be reliable, easy to maintain, able to withstand the elements and vandal resistant. ◆ Incorporate lighting into a regular maintenance plan so as to ensure lights are working, maintaining lux levels and are not obstructed in any way by signs, landscaping or other objects. ◆ When selecting and positioning light fixtures, be considerate of glare. Also consider the brightness of the light and the effect of passing from light to dark areas. ◆ Lights should be bright enough to enable the rear seat of a parked vehicle to be seen before entering and enable the face of a person to be seen 15 metres away. 			

Signs

Question	Yes	No	Comments
Does the area have signs that remind people to secure their vehicle and to remove valuables?			
Are all these signs clearly visible and located where people can see the message before leaving their vehicles?			

- Information to remind people to protect their belongings can result in them concealing or removing items that may be vulnerable to theft, thus reducing the provocation for an offender. Signs advising people to lock their car and take their belongings with them should be highly visible and situated so as to remind car park customers before they leave their vehicle.

Space Management

Question	Yes	No	Comments
Is there any evidence that criminal activity has occurred in the area (e.g. graffiti vandalism or broken window glass)?			
Are there items in the street or nearby that could be used to commit an offence (e.g. loose bricks, rocks or fallen tree branches)?			

- Evidence of crime can have a negative impact on the reputation of an area and people's perception of safety. Evidence of criminal activity may also encourage and foster further criminal activity in the area.
- Crime is opportunistic. Having items in the area that could be used to commit an offence (e.g. breaking the window) can increase the risk that crime will occur. Ensure that rubbish removal is part of a regular maintenance plan for the area so as not to provide access to items that can be used to commit an offence.

If you have any further enquiries go to www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au or email sfmv@agd.nsw.gov.au

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This audit has been prepared by the Department of Justice and Attorney General for general use. We hope that through public use of this audit, the likelihood of crime will be reduced and personal and community security will increase. This checklist does not guarantee that all security risks have been identified or that the area evaluated will be free from criminal activity.