

Comprehensive Checklist of Actions To Minimise Motor Vehicle Theft

This is a compressive checklist developed to reduce the opportunity of some stealing your car.

Motor vehicle theft can occur from a residential driveway, garage, street, railway station car park, shopping centre, workplace or other public location.

Target hardening means making a vehicle more difficult, time consuming and risky for an offender to enter, start, move or steal your car. No single security measure can prevent every car theft from occurring. The strongest protection comes from combining physical security, electronic security, safer parking practices, effective key control and prompt reporting.

Use my checklist to assess the security of your vehicle, keys, home, garage, driveway and regular parking locations.

1. LOCK AND SECURE THE VEHICLE

☐ **Lock your vehicle every time you leave it.**

Lock the vehicle even when:

- a. it is parked at home;
- b. it is inside a garage;
- c. you are only leaving it for a few minutes;
- d. you are opening or closing a gate;
- e. you are paying for fuel;
- f. you are collecting food or shopping; or
- g. another person remains nearby.

☐ **Close all windows, sunroofs and access points.**

Before walking away, confirm that:

- a. all doors are closed;
- b. all windows are completely raised;
- c. the sunroof or panoramic roof is closed;
- d. the boot or rear hatch is secured;

- e. external storage compartments are locked; and
- f. toolboxes, canopies and trailers are secured;

☐ **Check that remote locking has actually worked.**

Do not rely only on the sound of the remote or the flashing of the vehicle lights. Where practical, visually confirm that the vehicle has locked or test the door handle before leaving.

Electronic interference or signal jamming technology may prevent a vehicle from locking even though the driver has pressed the remote control button.

☐ **Take the keys with you and keep them secure.**

Never leave remotes or keys:

- a. in the ignition;
- b. on the seat;
- c. in the centre console;
- d. inside the glovebox;
- e. inside the boot;
- f. under a floor mat; or
- g. concealed elsewhere inside or underneath the vehicle.

☐ **Never leave the engine running while the vehicle is unattended.**

Do not leave a running vehicle unattended while:

- a. warming the engine;
- b. entering a shop;
- c. collecting a passenger;
- d. opening a garage or gate; or
- e. returning briefly to the house.

☐ **Secure the vehicle's registration plates.**

Install anti theft or locking number plate screws to make registration plates more difficult to remove.

Stolen registration plates may be placed on another vehicle and used during criminal activity, fuel theft, toll evasion or other offending.

2. PROTECT VEHICLE KEYS AND ACCESS ITEMS

Vehicle theft may occur after an offender obtains the original key, steals a spare key or electronically exploits the signal produced by a keyless entry system.

☐ **Keep vehicle keys out of sight at home.**

Do not leave keys:

- a. beside the front door;
- b. near a window;
- c. near a letterbox;
- d. on an entry table;
- e. hanging on a visible hook;
- f. inside an unlocked garage; or
- g. in another predictable or easily accessible location.

Store keys in a secure and concealed location within the home.

☐ **Secure all spare keys.**

Store spare keys in a locked drawer, cabinet, safe or other secure location.

Do not leave a spare key:

- a. inside the vehicle;
- b. inside the garage remote;
- c. under the vehicle;
- d. behind the registration plate;
- e. inside a magnetic key container; or
- f. in another common hiding place.

☐ **Remove garage remotes and access devices from the vehicle.**

Do not leave the following items inside an unattended vehicle:

- a. garage door remote controls;
- b. building access cards;
- c. electronic gate remotes;
- d. house keys;
- e. building entry fobs;
- f. workplace access cards; or
- g. keys to other vehicles.

An offender who enters or steals a vehicle may use these items to gain access to a home, garage, workplace or apartment building.

☐ **Do not attach your residential address to vehicle keys.**

Avoid key tags showing your full name and home address. A mobile telephone number may allow lost keys to be returned without identifying where the vehicle is normally stored.

☐ **Control access to keys within the household or workplace.**

Ensure that family members, visitors, contractors, employees and young drivers understand where vehicle keys are to be stored and who is authorised to use them.

3. REDUCE ELECTRONIC AND RELAY THEFT RISKS

Some modern vehicles can be targeted through electronic relay attacks, signal interception, key cloning, diagnostic port access or manipulation of keyless entry systems.

☐ **Install a suitable vehicle security device.**

Consider a security system designed to reduce the risk of crime offenders:

- a. electronically scanning a vehicle;
- b. intercepting a key signal;
- c. extending or relaying a keyless entry signal;
- d. exploiting the code or frequency used to unlock the vehicle;

- e. programming another key; or
- f. bypassing the vehicle's existing immobiliser.

Products may be described as:

- a. anti relay immobiliser systems;
- b. relay attack prevention systems;
- c. signal blocking security systems;
- d. digital immobilisers;
- e. keyless signal blocking devices;
- f. remote battery disconnect systems;
- g. diagnostic port locks; or
- h. secondary driver authentication systems.

Any device should be appropriate for the vehicle and installed by a reputable and suitably qualified installer.

☐ **Store keyless entry fobs in a signal blocking pouch or container.**

Place the primary key and every spare key inside a suitable:

- a. Faraday pouch;
- b. signal blocking wallet;
- c. signal blocking box; or
- d. secure container designed to restrict radio frequency transmission.

☐ **Test the signal blocking product regularly.**

Place the key inside the pouch or container and attempt to unlock the vehicle while standing next to it.

If the vehicle still unlocks, the container may not be blocking the signal effectively.

☐ **Keep signal blocking products closed and in good condition.**

Replace any pouch or container that becomes damaged, worn, torn or ineffective.

☐ **Review the manufacturer's security settings.**

Some vehicles allow owners to:

- a. disable passive keyless entry;
- b. place the key fob into sleep mode;
- c. require a PIN or secondary authentication process;
- d. receive movement or security alerts;
- e. monitor the vehicle through a connected application; or
- f. restrict remote access.

Consult the vehicle manual, authorised dealer or manufacturer before altering security settings.

☐ **Consider securing the vehicle's diagnostic port.**

An on board diagnostic port, commonly known as an OBD port, may be used by an offender to access the vehicle's electronic system and program another key.

A suitable OBD port lock or protective cover can create an additional physical barrier.

☐ **Protect connected vehicle accounts.**

Use:

- a. a strong and unique password;
- b. multifactor authentication where available;
- c. secure account recovery details; and
- d. current vehicle software and applications.

Remove account access from former drivers, employees, contractors or other persons who no longer require it.

4. REMOVE THE REWARD

A vehicle may be targeted because an offender can see valuables or believes valuable property may be stored inside.

☐ **Remove valuables and loose property from view.**

Do not leave visible:

- a. bags;
- b. wallets and purses;
- c. mobile phones;
- d. laptops and tablets;
- e. cameras;
- f. cash or coins;
- g. jewellery;
- h. sunglasses;
- i. shopping bags;
- j. parcels;
- k. sports equipment;
- l. tools;
- m. work equipment;
- n. chargers;
- o. electronic accessories;
- p. paperwork; or
- q. personal documents.

Even an empty bag may attract an offender who cannot see what is inside it.

☐ **Do not leave identity documents or financial papers inside the vehicle.**

Remove:

- a. driver licences;
- b. passports;
- c. bank statements;
- d. credit card documents;
- e. employment records;
- f. vehicle registration papers containing personal information;
- g. insurance documents;
- h. mail showing your home address; and
- i. other identity related documents.

These items may expose the owner to identity theft, fraud or further offending.

☐ **Be particularly careful with tools and work equipment.**

Tradespeople, contractors and workers should avoid leaving valuable tools in vehicles overnight.

Where tools cannot be removed:

- a. secure them inside a locked toolbox or canopy;
- b. use additional internal locking systems;
- c. mark or engrave identifying information;
- d. maintain an inventory and photographs;
- e. consider fitting tracking devices; and
- f. park the vehicle in the most secure available location.

5. USE VISIBLE PHYSICAL SECURITY

A visible physical security device may deter an offender by increasing the time, effort, tools and risk involved in stealing your vehicle.

☐ **Use a visible steering wheel lock.**

Fit the steering wheel lock whenever the vehicle is parked, including when it is:

- a. at home;
- b. inside a garage;
- c. in a driveway;
- d. at work;
- e. at a railway station; or
- f. in a public and shopping centre car park.

A visible steering wheel lock may demonstrate that:

- a. additional time will be required;
- b. specialist tools may be needed;
- c. the vehicle may contain other security systems; and
- d. the offender may attract attention.

☐ **Fit the lock correctly.**

Follow the manufacturer's instructions and confirm that the lock cannot be removed simply by turning or repositioning the steering wheel.

☐ **Consider additional mechanical barriers.**

Depending on the vehicle, appropriate measures may include:

- a. pedal or brake locks;
- b. gear selector locks;
- c. wheel clamps;
- d. bonnet locks;
- e. OBD port locks;
- f. seatbelt mounted steering locks;
- g. lockable bollards;

- h. driveway posts; or
- i. other professionally installed security barriers.

☐ **Maintain the vehicle's immobiliser and alarm.**

Confirm that the factory fitted immobiliser and alarm are operating correctly.

Have any fault investigated promptly by an authorised dealer or qualified automotive security specialist.

☐ **Consider an aftermarket alarm or immobiliser.**

Choose a system appropriate for the vehicle and have it professionally installed.

6. SECURE THE GARAGE, DRIVEWAY AND HOME

Vehicle security should form part of the overall security of the home.

☐ **Park inside a locked garage where possible.**

A closed garage door is not necessarily a locked garage door. Confirm that:

- a. the main garage door is secured;
- b. side doors are locked;
- c. garage windows are secured;
- d. emergency release mechanisms cannot be easily accessed;
- e. the internal door to the home is locked; and
- f. garage remotes are not left inside the vehicle.

☐ **Secure driveway gates.**

Close and lock gates where available. Repair damaged:

- a. hinges;
- b. latches;
- c. locks;
- d. fencing; and
- e. automated gate systems.

☐ **Consider installing a lockable driveway bollard.**

A properly installed bollard can create an additional barrier between the vehicle and the street.

☐ **Install motion activated lighting.**

Position lighting to illuminate:

- a. the driveway;
- b. garage entrance;
- c. front path;
- d. side access;
- e. parked vehicles; and
- f. surrounding access points.

☐ **Install CCTV or a driveway camera.**

Where practical, position cameras to record:

- a. people approaching the vehicle;
- b. the driver's and passenger sides;
- c. the driveway entrance;
- d. vehicle registration plates;
- e. the direction of travel; and
- f. nearby pedestrian and vehicle access points.

☐ **Check CCTV operation regularly.**

Confirm that:

- a. the system is recording;
- b. the date and time are correct;
- c. camera lenses are clean;
- d. vegetation does not block the view;
- e. recordings are retained for an adequate period; and
- f. relevant footage can be downloaded promptly.

☐ **Lock doors and windows within the home.**

Vehicle theft may involve an offender entering a house or garage to obtain keys.

Secure external doors and windows, including when residents are at home.

☐ **Do not leave keys in predictable locations.**

Do not store vehicle keys where they can be:

- a. seen through a window;
- b. reached through a door or letterbox;
- c. taken after entry through an unlocked door; or
- d. quickly located by an intruder.

☐ **Position vehicles strategically where appropriate.**

Where practical and lawful, park a less frequently used vehicle behind the vehicle considered to be at greater risk.

7. ADOPT SAFER PARKING AND TRAVEL HABITS

☐ **Park in a visible, well illuminated and busy area.**

Where possible, park near:

- a. building entrances;
- b. staffed areas;
- c. active businesses;
- d. security offices;
- e. pedestrian routes;
- f. functioning CCTV cameras; or
- g. other legitimate activity.

☐ **Avoid hidden, isolated and poorly lit parking locations.**

Exercise additional caution in areas with:

- a. damaged lighting;
- b. broken glass;
- c. abandoned vehicles;
- d. damaged fencing;

- e. evidence of repeated vehicle break ins;
- f. poor visibility; or
- g. limited pedestrian activity.

☐ **Use secure parking facilities where available.**

Prefer:

- a. a locked garage;
- b. gated parking;
- c. controlled access parking;
- d. staffed parking;
- e. monitored parking; or
- f. a secure workplace or residential parking area.

☐ **Make parking and travel habits less predictable where possible.**

Offenders may observe regular routines. Where practical:

- a. vary where the vehicle is parked;
- b. avoid leaving it unattended in the same isolated location;
- c. periodically check vehicles parked for extended periods; and
- d. avoid creating an obvious pattern of long term absence.

☐ **Do not publicly advertise that your vehicle or home will be unattended.**

Avoid posting online that:

- a. you are away from home;
- b. you are on holiday;
- c. your vehicle will remain at a railway station or airport;
- d. the house is vacant; or
- e. you will be absent for an extended period.

Review privacy settings before posting travel photographs or location information.

☐ **Record the parking location.**

For large or unfamiliar car parks, record:

- a. the street or facility;
- b. parking level;
- c. bay number;
- d. nearby landmark;
- e. date and time; and
- f. expected return time.

A photograph of the parked vehicle and surrounding area may assist in establishing its last known location and condition.

8. APPROACH THE VEHICLE SAFELY

Vehicle security includes the personal safety of the driver and passengers when approaching, entering or leaving the vehicle.

☐ **Look around before walking to the vehicle.**

Pay attention to:

- a. persons loitering nearby;
- b. people standing between vehicles;
- c. unusual activity around the vehicle;
- d. broken glass;
- e. open doors;
- f. damaged locks;
- g. unfamiliar objects attached to the vehicle; and
- h. vehicles positioned in a way that restricts your movement.

Exercise additional caution at night or in isolated locations.

☐ **Have your keys ready before reaching the vehicle.**

Avoid standing beside the vehicle while searching through a bag or pocket.

☐ **Unlock the vehicle only when you are close to it.**

Avoid unlocking the vehicle from a significant distance where this unnecessarily exposes the vehicle or reveals which vehicle belongs to you.

☐ **Check for signs of tampering before entering.**

Look for:

- a. damaged locks;
- b. broken windows;
- c. displaced number plates;
- d. marks around doors or handles;
- e. interference near the steering column;
- f. unusual wiring;
- g. objects placed near the wheels;
- h. damage near the fuel cap;
- i. signs that the vehicle has been entered; or
- j. property that has been moved.

☐ **Move to safety if something feels wrong.**

Do not approach or enter the vehicle merely to investigate.

Move to:

- a. an occupied building;
- b. a staffed business;
- c. a security office;
- d. a well lit public area; or
- e. another secure location.

Contact police or security personnel where appropriate.

☐ **Carry a personal safety alarm.**

Consider carrying a small pocket sized or purse sized personal safety alarm with:

- a. a very loud siren;
- b. a strobe light;
- c. a simple activation mechanism; and
- d. a charged battery or working replaceable battery.

Carry the alarm where it can be reached quickly rather than buried at the bottom of a bag.

A personal safety alarm may attract attention and assist a person to move away from danger. It does not replace the need to avoid confrontation, move to safety and contact police as soon as it is safe to do so.

9. INSTALL AND MAINTAIN TRACKING TECHNOLOGY

☐ **Consider installing a professionally fitted GPS tracker.**

Select a system that:

- a. provides reliable location information;
- b. is concealed;
- c. has an independent or backup power supply;
- d. provides movement or tamper alerts;
- e. uses a secure account;
- f. has a current subscription where required; and
- g. can be accessed promptly if the vehicle is stolen.

☐ **Activate the manufacturer's vehicle location service where available.**

Confirm that:

- a. the service is active;
- b. account details are current;
- c. the connected application is installed;
- d. login details are available;
- e. alerts are enabled; and
- f. any required subscription remains current.

☐ **Consider placing a consumer tracking device in a concealed location.**

Possible devices include:

- a. Apple AirTag;
- b. Samsung Galaxy SmartTag;
- c. Tile tracker;
- d. Chipolo tracker; or
- e. another compatible Bluetooth tracking device.

The device should be:

- a. registered to your account;
- b. paired with your phone;
- c. placed in a concealed and safe location;
- d. kept charged or fitted with a working battery;
- e. checked regularly;
- f. protected from heat and water; and
- g. positioned so that it is out of sight and does not interfere with airbags, pedals, wiring or vehicle controls.

☐ **Treat consumer trackers as a supplementary measure.**

A Bluetooth item tracker is different from a professionally fitted GPS vehicle tracking system.

Its effectiveness may depend on:

- a. nearby compatible devices;
- b. wireless network coverage;
- c. battery condition;
- d. device settings; and
- e. antistalking features that may alert another person to its presence.

☐ **Never attempt to recover a stolen vehicle yourself.**

If tracking information identifies a possible location:

- a. do not attend the location;
- b. do not confront anyone;
- c. do not follow the vehicle if it is unsafe to do so;
- d. do not block the vehicle;
- e. do not publish the location online;
- f. preserve screenshots and location updates; and
- g. provide the information and vehicle location immediately to police.

Personal safety must always take priority over property.

10. CREATE A VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION RECORD

Prepare a complete vehicle record before a theft occurs.

☐ **Take clear colour photographs of the vehicle.**

Photograph:

- a. the front;
- b. the rear;
- c. the driver's side;
- d. the passenger side;
- e. each corner;
- f. the passenger compartment;
- g. the boot or cargo area;
- h. the wheels;
- i. accessories; and
- j. distinctive features.

☐ **Photograph both registration plates.**

Ensure that the registration number and state are clearly visible.

☐ **Photograph distinctive features.**

Record:

- a. dents;
- b. scratches;
- c. stickers;
- d. decals;
- e. roof racks;
- f. bull bars;
- g. tow bars;
- h. toolboxes;
- i. modified wheels;
- j. body modifications;
- k. window tinting; and
- l. other identifying characteristics.

☐ **Record and photograph the Vehicle Identification Number.**

The VIN may be found:

- a. at the base of the windscreen;
- b. on the dashboard;
- c. inside the driver's side door frame or door jamb;
- d. in the engine bay;
- e. on registration records; or
- f. in another manufacturer designated location.

☐ **Record the following information:**

- a. registration number;
- b. state of registration;
- c. make;
- d. model;
- e. year;
- f. body type;
- g. transmission type;
- h. exterior colour;
- i. interior colour;
- j. VIN;
- k. engine number where available;
- l. accessories;
- m. modifications;
- n. security devices;
- o. tracker details; and
- p. identifying features.

☐ **Store the record securely.**

Keep copies:

- a. in secure cloud storage;
- b. in an encrypted digital file;
- c. with your insurer;
- d. in a secure home record; or
- e. with a trusted family member.

Do not leave the only copy inside the vehicle.

11. MAINTAIN INSURANCE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

☐ **Keep vehicle insurance current and insurer contact details readily available.**

Understand:

- a. keep the insurers contact details and phone number readily available;
- b. the type of insurance cover and your policy number;
- c. the agreed or market value;
- d. excess payments;
- e. policy exclusions;
- f. security requirements;
- g. notification obligations; and
- h. the insurer's theft reporting procedure.

☐ **Store registration and insurance information securely.**

Do not leave sensitive documents containing personal information or a residential address visible inside the vehicle.

☐ **Notify the insurer promptly after reporting a vehicle theft to police.**

Record the police event or report number and provide it to the insurer when requested.

12. IDENTIFY AND REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR

Remain alert to persons who appear to be:

- a. checking or pulling vehicle door handles;
- b. looking into multiple vehicles;
- c. tampering with locks or windows;
- d. photographing vehicles, registration plates or driveways;
- e. removing or changing registration plates;
- f. loitering around garages, driveways or car parks;
- g. carrying unexplained electronic devices or tools;
- h. following residents into secure car parks;
- i. driving slowly through residential streets;
- j. moving repeatedly between parked vehicles;

- k. attempting to access a garage or home to obtain keys; or
- l. returning repeatedly to the same location.

Suspicious conduct must be assessed objectively.

Do not make assumptions based only on a person's age, clothing, ethnicity, appearance or presence in the area. Focus on observable actions and surrounding circumstances.

☐ **Do not confront suspicious persons.**

Do not place yourself or another person at risk to protect a vehicle or obtain evidence.

☐ **Move to a safe location.**

Where appropriate, remain inside:

- a. a locked vehicle;
- b. a secure home;
- c. an occupied business;
- d. a security office; or
- e. another protected location.

☐ **Record information only where it is safe to do so.**

Useful information may include:

- a. date;
- b. time;
- c. exact location;
- d. number of people;
- e. physical descriptions;
- f. clothing;
- g. distinguishing features;
- h. vehicle make and model;
- i. vehicle colour;
- j. registration number;
- k. direction of travel;
- l. photographs;

- m. CCTV footage; and
- n. dash camera footage.

☐ **Preserve original recordings.**

Retain the original copy of:

- a. CCTV footage;
- b. dash camera footage;
- c. photographs;
- d. tracking information; and
- e. electronic alerts.

Do not edit, crop or overwrite the only copy.

13. IF A VEHICLE THEFT IS OCCURRING

☐ **Put personal safety before property.**

Do not:

- a. confront the offender;
- b. attempt to physically prevent the theft;
- c. stand in front of the vehicle;
- d. block the vehicle with your body;
- e. chase the offender;
- f. follow the stolen vehicle; or
- g. attempt to detain anyone.

☐ **Move yourself and others to safety.**

☐ **Call Triple Zero - 000.**

Call Triple Zero when:

- a. a theft is occurring now;
- b. the offender is still present;
- c. someone is injured;
- d. there is an immediate threat;

- e. weapons are involved;
- f. immediate police attendance is required; or
- g. a stolen vehicle is being actively monitored through live tracking.

☐ **Provide clear information.**

Tell the operator:

- a. what is happening;
- b. the exact location;
- c. whether anyone is injured;
- d. whether weapons have been seen;
- e. the number and description of offenders;
- f. the vehicle registration;
- g. the vehicle make, model and colour;
- h. the direction of travel; and
- i. whether live tracking is available.

Follow all police directions.

14. IF YOU DISCOVER THAT YOUR VEHICLE HAS BEEN STOLEN

☐ **Double check that the location where you believe you parked your vehicle is, in fact, where you left it on that occasion.**

☐ **Confirm that the vehicle has not been moved lawfully.**

Check whether:

- a. another authorised person has used it;
- b. it has been relocated by building management;
- c. it has been towed;
- d. parking restrictions applied; or
- e. you have returned to the wrong parking location.

☐ **Do not disturb the surrounding area unnecessarily.**

There may be evidence including:

- a. broken glass;
- b. fingerprints;
- c. footprints;
- d. tools;
- e. discarded objects;
- f. damaged locks;
- g. CCTV footage; or
- h. witness information.

☐ **Report the theft promptly.**

Where there is no immediate danger, contact:

Victoria Police Assistance Line - 131 444

A nonurgent report to the Police may also be made through the Victoria Police Online Reporting service where the matter is eligible. For further information, refer to page 29.

Confidential information concerning offenders, suspected offenders or criminal activity may be provided to:

Crime Stoppers Victoria - 1800 333 000

☐ **Provide complete vehicle information.**

Have available:

- a. registration number;
- b. make;
- c. model;
- d. year;
- e. colour;
- f. body type;
- g. VIN;
- h. engine number where available;

- i. identifying features;
- j. accessories;
- k. security devices;
- l. tracker information;
- m. last known location;
- n. last known time; and
- o. details of the keys still in your possession.

☐ **Preserve CCTV and dash camera footage immediately.**

Some systems automatically overwrite footage after a set period of time. Download and secure relevant recordings as soon as possible.

☐ **Ask nearby residents or businesses to preserve footage.**

Ask them to retain footage covering the relevant period for police. Do not demand access or interfere with another person's equipment.

☐ **Notify your insurer.**

Provide the police event or report number when available.

☐ **Notify relevant service providers.**

Depending on the circumstances, consider notifying:

- a. the vehicle manufacturer;
- b. the connected vehicle service provider;
- c. the GPS tracking company;
- d. the finance or leasing provider;
- e. the employer, where it is a work vehicle;
- f. the toll road account provider; and
- g. the parking or building manager.

15. HOUSEHOLD, WORKPLACE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

☐ **Teach family members and household members the same security practices.**

Everyone who uses or has access to the vehicle should understand:

- a. locking procedures;
- b. secure key storage;
- c. signal blocking requirements;
- d. safe parking practices;
- e. the location of security devices;
- f. personal safety procedures; and
- g. how to report an emergency.

☐ **Teach young and inexperienced drivers.**

Do not assume that safe vehicle security practices are automatically understood.

Young drivers should be taught to:

- a. lock the vehicle every time;
- b. remove valuables;
- c. secure keys;
- d. inspect the vehicle before entering;
- e. avoid isolated parking areas;
- f. carry a charged phone;
- g. move to safety when concerned; and
- h. avoid confronting offenders.

☐ **Apply the same standards to work vehicles.**

Employers and fleet managers should establish procedures for:

- a. key control;
- b. authorised drivers;
- c. overnight parking;
- d. tool and equipment storage;

- e. tracking systems;
- f. incident reporting;
- g. vehicle identification records; and
- h. regular security inspections.

☐ **Treat vehicle security as part of broader community safety.**

Effective vehicle security protects:

- a. individuals;
- b. families;
- c. homes;
- d. workplaces;
- e. businesses;
- f. neighbours; and
- g. the wider community.

A stolen vehicle may be used in further offending. Preventing theft therefore contributes to broader crime prevention and community safety.

DAILY VEHICLE SECURITY CHECK

Before leaving the vehicle:

- ☐ Engine turned off.
- ☐ Keys removed.
- ☐ Windows and sunroof closed.
- ☐ Doors, boot and storage compartments locked.
- ☐ Remote locking checked.
- ☐ Valuables and documents removed.
- ☐ House keys and garage remote removed.
- ☐ Steering wheel lock fitted.
- ☐ Alarm and immobiliser activated.
- ☐ Tracker operating.
- ☐ Parking location visible and well illuminated; and
- ☐ Surroundings checked before walking away.

HOME SECURITY CHECK

Before retiring for the night:

- ☐ Vehicle locked.
- ☐ Steering wheel lock fitted.
- ☐ Garage door closed and locked.
- ☐ Driveway gate or bollard secured.
- ☐ Internal garage door locked.
- ☐ Vehicle keys concealed and secured.
- ☐ Spare keys secured.
- ☐ Keyless fobs placed in signal blocking storage.
- ☐ Garage remote removed from vehicle.
- ☐ Motion lighting operational.
- ☐ CCTV recording correctly; and
- ☐ Tracker and security alerts active.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR REPORTING CRIMES AND OTHER INCIDENTS TO THE VICTORIA POLICE

Emergency or theft occurring now

Call Triple Zero - 000

Use Triple Zero where:

- a. the theft is occurring;
- b. an offender is still present;
- c. anyone is injured or in danger;
- d. weapons are involved;
- e. immediate police attendance is required; or
- f. a stolen vehicle is being actively monitored through live tracking.

Non urgent police report

Victoria Police Assistance Line - 131 444

Use the Police Assistance Line, where the incident has already occurred and there is no immediate danger or need for urgent police attendance.

Check the Police Station's Public Counter Hours

To check if the nearest police station public counter is open to the public, visit:

www.police.vic.gov.au/police-station-location

Report Eligible Matters Online

Victoria Police provides an official online reporting service for eligible nonurgent crimes and incidents. Report eligible matters online at:

onlinereporting.police.vic.gov.au

Confidential crime information

Crime Stoppers Victoria - 1800 333 000

Crime Stoppers may be used to provide confidential information about offenders, suspicious behaviour, stolen vehicles, CCTV footage, dash camera footage or other criminal activity.

FINAL COMMUNITY SAFETY MESSAGE

A determined offender may overcome one security measure. Multiple layers of protection increase the time, difficulty and risk involved in stealing a vehicle.

Lock the vehicle. Secure the keys. Block electronic signals. Remove valuables. Use visible physical security. Protect the garage and driveway. Park in safe locations. Record identifying information. Use tracking technology. Remain alert. Report suspicious behaviour.

Always put personal safety before property.

Do not confront an offender and do not attempt to recover a stolen vehicle yourself unless it's safe to do so.

Stay safe. Act decisively. Preserve the evidence. Report the incident.

As your Councillor for the South Morang Ward and the wider City of Whittlesea, my position is always that, Crime has no place in South Morang, and no place anywhere across our great City of Whittlesea.

Remember Lock it. Secure it. Report it. Take simple precautions now so you do not become the next victim of motor vehicle theft.

Summary Checklist of Actions To Minimise Motor Vehicle Theft

This Summary Checklist must be read in conjunction with the *Comprehensive Checklist of Actions to Minimise Motor Vehicle Theft* set out above.

Summary Checklist

1. Lock your vehicle every time, including when it is parked at home or left unattended for only a few minutes.
2. Close all windows and sunroofs before leaving the vehicle.
3. Remove valuables, bags, electronics, documents, and loose items from sight.
4. Keep vehicle keys away from front doors, windows, letterboxes, and other easily accessible locations.
5. Store keyless entry fobs in a signal blocking pouch or secure container to reduce the risk of electronic relay theft.
6. Use a visible steering wheel lock as an additional physical deterrent.
7. Park in a locked garage where possible. Secure garage doors, gates, and driveways.
8. Park in well lit, busy, and visible areas, preferably near CCTV cameras or building entrances.
9. Never leave a spare car key and garage fob inside the vehicle or attached underneath it.
10. Consider installing an alarm, immobiliser, GPS tracking device, driveway camera, or motion activated lighting.
11. Place a GPS tracker, Apple AirTag, Samsung Galaxy SmartTag, Tile tracker, or Chipolo tracker in a concealed location inside your vehicle so it may be located through a connected phone application if stolen. Ensure the device is registered to your account, kept charged, or fitted with a working battery. If the vehicle is located, provide the tracking information to police and do not attempt to recover it yourself.

12. Take clear colour photographs of the entire vehicle from the front, rear, and both sides, including the registration plates, vehicle colour, make, model, and any distinctive features. Also photograph the Vehicle Identification Number, or VIN, displayed inside the driver's side door frame. Store the photographs securely so they can be provided to police and your insurer if the vehicle is stolen.
12. Keep your vehicle registration, insurance details, photographs, VIN, make, model, colour, and identifying features recorded securely.
13. Remain alert to people checking car doors, loitering around vehicles, photographing vehicles, or driving slowly through residential streets and car parks.
14. Do not confront suspicious persons. Safely record descriptions, registration numbers, date, time, and location; and
15. Call the police on Triple Zero (000) if a theft is occurring or there is an immediate threat. Report non urgent suspicious activity to Victoria Police or Crime Stoppers.

