



New Figures Show Thieves are Finding Their Way to GPS Units

Wednesday 13th October 2009

Minister for Police Michael Daley today issued a warning to motorists that GPS units remain hot property for thieves with new figures showing more than 5,000 devices have been stolen from vehicles across NSW in just 12 months.

Mr Daley said many motorists may be inadvertently making their vehicles targets for thieves by failing to take basic precautions.

“With most people now getting the message to keep valuables out of sight, thieves are looking for other signs that GPS units or iPods may be inside,” he said.

“Leaving your GPS holder fixed to the windscreen or iPod charger plugged in is like leaving a \$100 note on the dashboard.

“You’re effectively painting a big red target on the bonnet of your car – it’s an open invitation to thieves.

“Even if you’ve removed your GPS unit and other valuables from your car, thieves will smash your window in the mistaken belief that they’ll find something of value.

“Some of the hotspots for GPS theft are residential and office car parks, as well as shopping centres.

“But it doesn’t matter if you are parked on the street, in a car park or in your drive way, it’s important that you remove any evidence of valuables being in your car.

“While the latest statistics show that Steal from Motor Vehicle offences has dropped 21%, it’s very concerning that such a large number of GPS units continue to be stolen from vehicles.

“The ever increasing popularity of small, expensive portable gadgets has made breaking into cars a lucrative venture for opportunistic thieves.

“Stolen iPods and GPS units can be easily sold on the black market.

“Simple precautions need to be taken – take your valuables and accessories out of the car, make sure your windows are up and remember to lock your car.

“These easy steps could stop you becoming a victim of crime,” said Mr Daley.