TRESPASSING

Trespassers who enter private rural land are a constant concern for landholders. Many of these trespassers unlawfully enter properties to hunt illegally. As well as committing offences of hunting animals without the landholder’s permission, trespassers have been linked to other offences such as leaving gates open, killing livestock and stealing fuel.

• Lock boundary gates
• Consider installing security cameras to monitor entrance points and homestead areas
• Make a record of equipment that is stored on the property and secure valuable items in a lockable shed
• Keep a daily diary of all activities on the property
• Keep a record of anyone who has permission to be on the property and require them to notify the property manager every time they come onto the property
• If trespassers are sighted, make a note of the time, date and a description of the people and vehicles. A simple digital camera is also a good tool for taking photos that can be used by police to prosecute offenders
• Always ensure that you know where your equipment is located on the farm
Consider using these simple strategies to avoid becoming a victim of stock theft

- Regularly check your stock, paddock and fences but avoid establishing a routine time to make checks
- Use strong chains and locks on all gates across access routes and on loading ramps
- Ensure your fences and gates are kept in good repair
- Consider the use of ditches as a natural barrier
- Ask shooters who request access to your property for a reference from a farmer in your district, request to sight their firearms licence and record the name and number from the licence.
- Have a plan of your property indicating when and where things happen and where stock and equipment are located
- Be aware of strangers or unfamiliar vehicles in your area. Write down their registration number and all other relevant information and pass it onto your local police
- Alert your neighbours if you see anything suspicious
- Consider limiting access routes to your property
- If leaving the property for an extended period of time, liaise with your trusted neighbours. Tell them of your plans and where you can be contacted.
- The National Livestock Identification Scheme involves stock being identified by micro chip in the ear or with a bolus which is inserted down the throat of the animal where it remains lodged in the rumen of the animal for its lifetime.
- Consider installing security cameras to monitor entrance points to paddocks. Some cameras can send photos direct to smartphones.
- Ensure all animals are marked for identification (including the family dog). Livestock identification can be ear tags, earmarks, tattooing, branding & microchips
- Take photographs or videos of valuable animals with the brand or ear tags clearly visible. It is a good idea to have some identifying aspect of your property in the background such as your house or shed
- Maintain accurate stock records. Ensure you record all details of stock with id numbers
- Make a copy of your ear mark, brand or other id marks.
- Ensure you hire trustworthy employees
- Consider a self audit checklist that will highlight areas that need to be improved to help prevent loss of livestock