



MEDIA RELEASE

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Respect the Huon: Report crime

Following recent incidents of theft and damage to public property in the Huonville and Geeveston areas, Huon Valley Council urges community members with information about a crime to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or at www.crimestoppers.com.au.

“It only takes a call or a click to report a crime,” Huon Valley Council Mayor Bec Enders said.

Council works closely with Tasmania Police and Crime Stoppers Tasmania to address issues relating to crime and other anti-social behaviour in the community. Assistance from the public is so important for police investigations, so sightings of criminal or suspicious activity should be reported.

You can give information anonymously to Crime Stoppers, which removes any fear of identification, getting involved or retaliation.

Wherever possible though, if you can give the Police your details, they are more likely to be successful in prosecuting the thieves and recovering stolen goods.

“Your help may make all the difference to police investigations,” Cr Enders said.

The Southbridge (Huonville) Waste Transfer Station suffered two instances of break-ins and theft of valuable items in the past two weeks. The thieves had parked outside the Waste Transfer Station for approximately half an hour before entering the premises and their vehicle would have been visible from the highway.

The impact of these burglaries goes beyond the loss of the stolen goods, extending to insurance claim excesses, an impact on the mental health and wellbeing of individuals, and the cost of staff time to repair the damage.

Local skateboarders and families visiting the Huonville Skate Park have also seen considerable anti-social and destructive behaviour recently. On multiple occasions vandals have left graffiti and rubbish throughout the area, which makes the park feel unsafe for the community and places burden on Council’s budget and our rate-payers.

Communications & Media Officer

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Council is in discussions with the Huonville Police Sergeant concerning the area, and the advice provided is that surveillance cameras would assist police in identifying and charging the offenders. A quote for cameras is being sourced.

“Part of ensuring public safety and quality of life involves making sure our shared spaces are kept secure and in good condition, and our community can take ownership and pride in these assets,” Cr Enders said.

If you want to see respect grow in the Huon Valley and make our place the most liveable in Tasmania, then please be that member in our community who assists in protecting property by coming forward with any information that may assist police to solve a crime. Protecting those that do crime will only make illegal behaviour appear to be acceptable behaviour.

“Everyone has a role to play in maintaining the safe, harmonious and respectful lifestyle we enjoy here in the Huon Valley,” Cr Enders said. “By being proactive about reporting suspicious or unusual activity to police, we as a community can stop crimes from happening.”

During the past 20 years, reports to Crime Stoppers Tasmania have assisted police to arrest more than 3700 persons and record more than 16,500 offences. More than \$5.1 million of stolen and damaged property has been recovered in the same time period thanks to public reports.

According to Tasmania Police’s *Crime Statistics Supplement 2017–18*, total offences in the state had reduced by 5 per cent, and the clearance rate for total offences exceeded 50 per cent for this first time in more than 45 years. This means that offences reported to police were more likely to be cleared than not.

For more information: Mayor Bec Enders (03) 6264 0300

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