



Troy Grant
Minister for Police
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MEDIA RELEASE

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RURAL CRIME REFORMS PASS PARLIAMENT

NSW Parliament has passed important legislation designed to provide a more comprehensive and effective response to rural crime, including stock theft, trespass and illegal hunting.

The *Rural Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2017* followed a review into rural crime undertaken by former NSW Police Force Assistant Commissioner Steve Bradshaw.

Minister for Police Troy Grant said the amendments addressed calls from rural landowners for greater legislative recognition of the impact of trespass onto rural properties, which is often accompanied by other crimes such as theft, and may trigger a biosecurity risk.

“I commissioned the Bradshaw Review in an effort to gain a clearer sense of the issues facing communities across NSW in relation to rural crime,” Mr Grant said.

“Mr Bradshaw clocked up thousands of kilometres driving across the state to hear firsthand from victims of rural crime, and from the police officers and regulatory compliance officers on the frontline who deal with this problem every single day. I thank him for his efforts and I am confident this legislation will contribute to a reduction in incidents of rural crime in NSW.

“The job of a farmer is hard enough without having to bear the brunt of wanton acts of destruction. These reforms give rural police the legislative framework they need to solve these crimes, and give farmers the confidence to report criminal activity, while deterring would-be criminals from engaging in this illegal behaviour.”

The reforms:

- (a) Create an offence of aggravated trespass on ‘inclosed land’, where a biosecurity risk is created or increased, where the offender intends to engage in stock theft or where the offender is in possession of hunting equipment or hunting dogs;
- (b) Include vulnerability arising from a victim’s geographical isolation as an aggravating factor in sentencing for offences;
- (c) Provide for the power to apply to the Local Court for a stock mustering order, authorising entry onto property owned by another person to muster and recover missing stock. The owner of stock or a police officer may apply;

- (d) Increase the maximum financial penalty for the offence of hunting on private land without the consent of the owner or occupier (from \$1,100 to \$2,200);
- (e) Extend existing powers of inspectors and police officers to stop, search and detain vehicles and vessels so that these powers also apply to the offence of hunting on private land without consent. A notice to produce may be issued in relation to the power to search a vehicle that is connected with a game hunting offence; and
- (f) Specify the requirements for proving ownership of a feral goat.

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