



# MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC  
Attorney General  
Minister for Industrial Relations

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Thursday, April 23, 2009

## SCREWS TIGHTEN ON NUMBER PLATE THIEVES

Penrith motorists will be offered free anti-theft screws to secure their number plates, as part of a NSW Government-funded crime prevention program, NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

Penrith City Council will receive more than \$83,000 in grants for the *Plate Safe* program and for an upgrade of the Jane Street car park near Penrith Station.

“Stolen registration plates are often used in robberies, petrol theft and in road toll evasion,” said NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos.

“The rollout of one-way screws in Penrith will frustrate number plate thieves as they can’t be removed with a conventional screwdriver.”

A study by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) showed 12% of stealing from motor vehicle incidents involved number plate theft. Number plates were the most common items stolen from vehicles in Sydney in 2007-2008, with 8414 incidents.

In crime figures released last week, BOCSAR found that fraud – which includes fuel theft – was one of only two crime categories which increased last year, up by 15.7%.

Member for Penrith Karyn Paluzzano said an upgrade of the busy Jane Street car park, including improved fencing and landscaping to reduce blind spots, would further help to combat theft from motor vehicles.

“Car parks are a common target for thieves wanting to break into motor vehicles, but improved environmental design can reduce theft and anti-social behaviour,” said Ms Paluzzano.

“Motorists can also help cut theft rates by removing valuables from their vehicle and ensuring that it is locked and the windows are wound up whenever it is not in use.”

The NSW Government has provided \$315,000 in crime prevention grants (including the latest grants) to Penrith City Council since 2002.

“The council has consistently delivered innovative grass roots strategies to help make the Penrith area safer and a more attractive place to live and do business,” Ms Paluzzano said.