

**Submission
No 33**

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN REGIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

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I would like to say that I am very concerned about the rise in criminal activity in our region. A lot of it seems to stem from the high number of ice users who need to fund their habit. I also believe the more people who arrive from city areas as they get cheaper housing, they also stay on Centrelink payments as we are too far for them to travel to work/they don't want to work making receiving payments easier. These people also have no community spirit. They just seem to want handouts wherever they can. Also the lack of consequence for their actions is driving up the criminal activity, they also seem to be getting younger. I would like to be able to know, that if anyone came onto my property that was unwelcome and made me feel unsafe, I need to know that I can defend myself without me getting charged. I talk to way to many property owners who have been charged due to offenders not liking to be told in no uncertain terms, that they are in the wrong. It seems the court system is favourable to the criminal while the rest of the community not only has to put up with the arrogance, the injuries or the theft and damage of their own property that we work hard to maintain.