QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

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Northern Region has overall crime rate increase

Northern Region Assistant Commissioner Paul Taylor today announced the release of the Queensland Police Service's (QPS) Statistical Review which shows an overall crime rate increase of 2.4 percent for the region.

The Statistical Review represents a comprehensive insight into the level and nature of crime reported for each police region and district throughout Queensland.

"Armed robbery is down by 4.9 percent and property crime down by 2.5 percent which is good news for people in the Northern Region and reflects well on the efforts of police and the community," Assistant Commissioner Taylor said.

"Sexual offences increased by 9.7 percent. Reported rapes or attempted rape offences increased by 85 on the previous year and there was a 2.9 percent increase in other sexual offences. The increase can be attributed in part to more people reporting incidents of sexual offences to police, especially historical cases.

"I encourage all community members to continue to report such incidents to police with the confidence that their complaint will be fully investigated and we will continue to work closely with community groups to develop and implement strategies to combat sexual assault."

Assistant Commissioner Taylor said a fall in property offences was testament to the sustained hard work and dedication of officers across the region and strong community partnerships.

"Break ins across the region have dropped by 12 percent while unlawful entry of shops has fallen by 26.6 percent," Assistant Commissioner Taylor said.

"This is indicative of the importance of proactive policing and community programs, such as the myPolice blogs for the Northern Region, Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch, providing information on crime prevention strategies and crime reporting avenues."

Assistant Commissioner Taylor said the overall rate of fraud offences rose by 30.1 percent. Computer fraud decreased by 36 percent, cheque fraud decreased by 5.8 percent and other fraud fell by 4.4 percent. Credit card fraud increased by 49.9 percent and identity fraud increased from 52 offences in 2013/14 to 292 offences in 2014/15, with an increased rate of 454.7 percent.

Targeted police operations have seen the rate of good order offences increased by 5.5 percent in the Northern Region.

“This increase can be largely attributed to operations in public places focusing on anti-social behaviour and liquor offences,” Assistant Commissioner Taylor said.

Northern Region encompasses the three policing districts of Far North, Mount Isa and Townsville.

Note: All percentages used in this release relate to the number of reported offences per 100,000 people. Media seeking regional and district crime statistics from the Queensland Police Service 2013/14 Annual Statistical Review can locate details on the QPS website at www.police.qld.gov.au.