QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

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Southern Region has increase in overall crime rate

Southern Region Assistant Commissioner Tony Wright today announced the release of the Queensland Police Service's (QPS) Statistical Review which shows an overall crime rate increase of 2.2 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 16.3 percent and property crime down by 5.2 percent which is good news for people in the Southern Region and reflects well on the efforts of police and the community," Assistant Commissioner Wright said.

"Sexual offences were reduced by 1.7 percent. There was a 1.2 percent decrease in rape and attempted rape offences and a 1.8 percent decrease in other sexual offences.

"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 Wright 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 to homes across the region have dropped by 22.3 percent while unlawful entry of shops has fallen by 37.8 percent," Assistant Commissioner Wright said.

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

Assistant Commissioner Wright said the overall rate of fraud offences has increased by 64.2 percent. Cheque fraud fell by 43.3 percent while computer fraud, credit card fraud, identity fraud and other fraud recorded increases.

Computer fraud offences increased from 156 offences in 2013/14 to 303 offences in 2014/15. Credit card fraud offences increased from 1061 offences in 2013/14 to 1266 offences in 2014/15. Identity fraud offences increased from 54 offences 2013/14 to 155 offences in 2014/15 and other fraud offences increased from 1575 offences in 2013/14 to 3130 offences in 2014/15.

“There is a lot of public awareness around fraud offences and as people become more vigilant they have noticed they have been a victim of this crime which is why there has been a large increase in these reported offences,” Assistant Commissioner Wright said.

Targeted police operations have seen the rate of good order offences increase by 2.6 percent in Southern Region.

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

Southern Region encompasses the four policing districts of Darling Downs, Ipswich, Moreton and South West.

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 2014/15 Annual Statistical Review can locate details on the QPS website at www.police.qld.gov.au.