

# Post-hoc evaluation of a police-led pilot cocooning intervention

**A promising start with room for improvement**

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# Acknowledgements

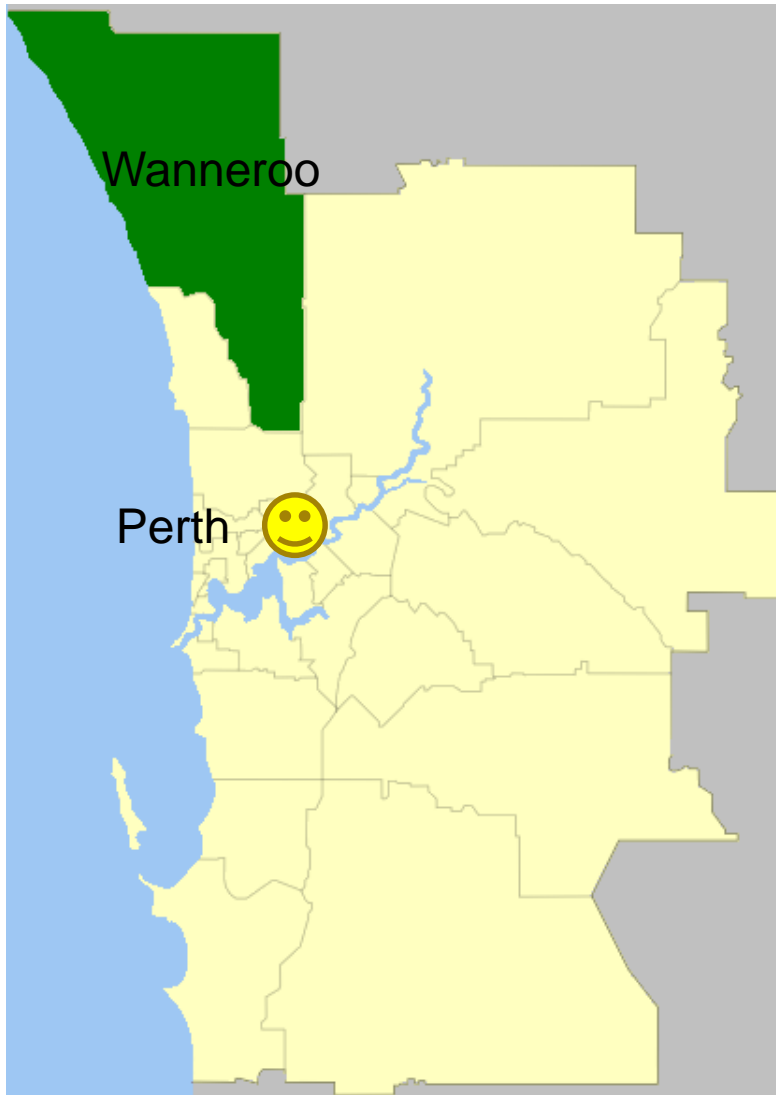
## Western Australian Police Force (WAPF)

- Simon Hazel
- Paul House
- Christine McComb
- Angela Nicholson
- Simon Williams (now New Zealand Police)

# What I want to tell you about

- Evaluation results of WAPF-led cocooning initiative
  - What they did?
  - What they found?
  - What worked and what can be improved?
- Use SARA framework to think about how to enhance process/impact of interventions in future

# The City of Wanneroo

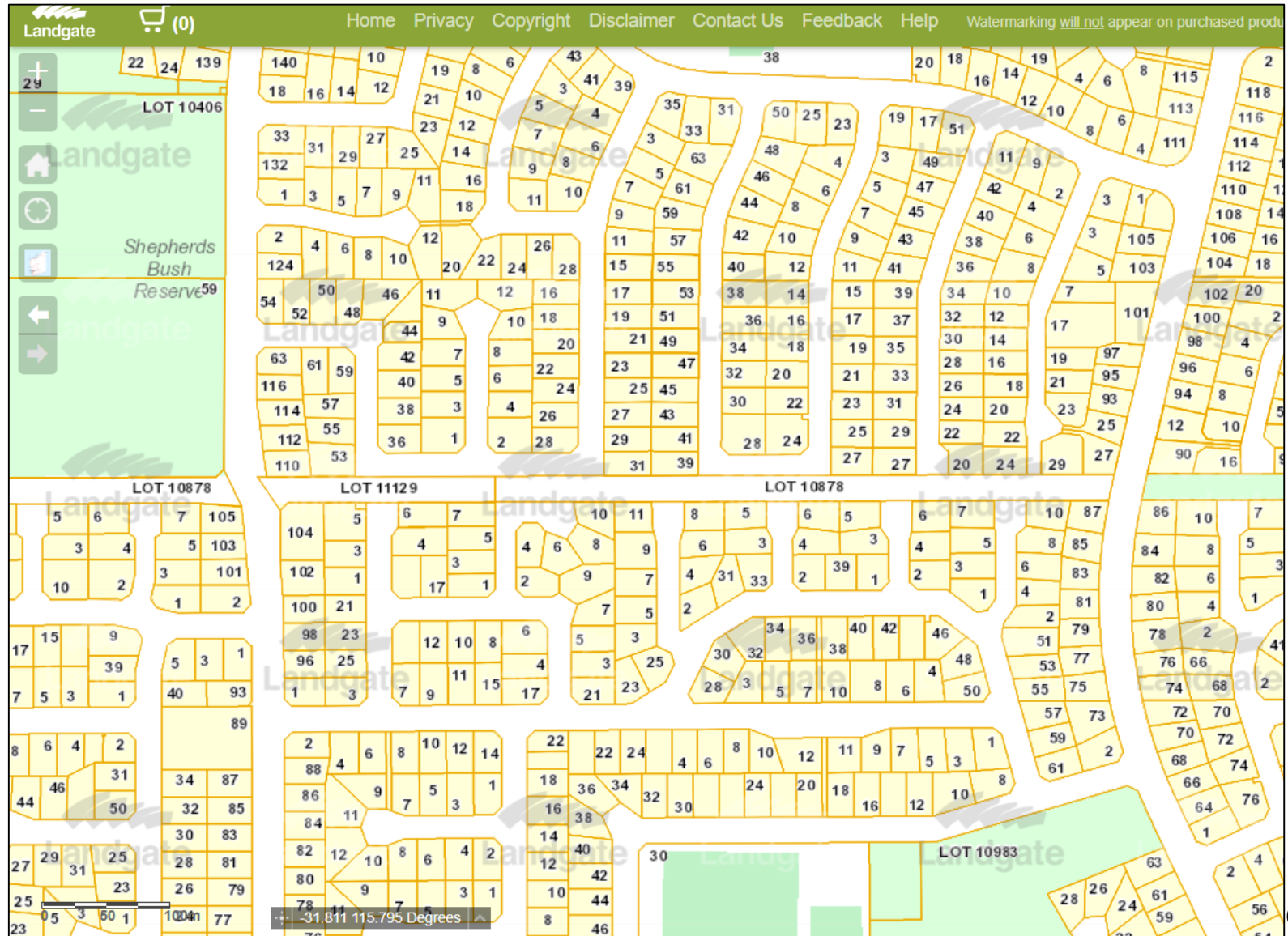


- Pop: 188,212 people
  - Density: 274 people / km<sup>2</sup>
  - 4.9% density of Greater London
- Size: 686 km<sup>2</sup>
  - 43.7% size of Greater London
- Wanneroo policing jurisdiction covers 14 suburbs

# What did WAPF do?

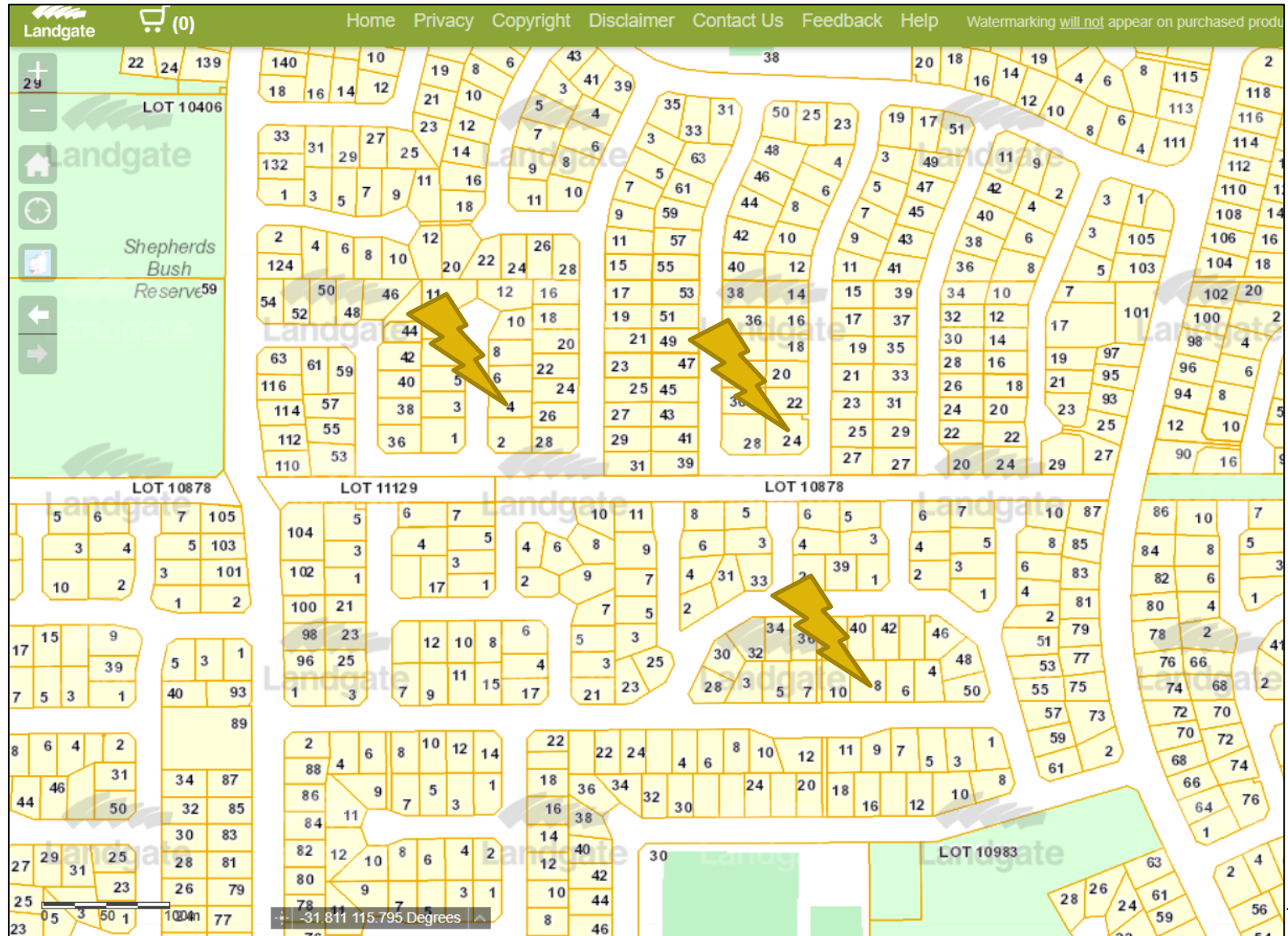
- The cocooning program involved
  - Distribution of an information pamphlet in the immediate aftermath of a residential burglary
  - Distribution by mail or in-person visits from WAPF
- Victims and the houses immediately surrounding the victim's property
  - Typically about 8 properties per victim address
- Contact made within 48 hours of the burglary event

# What did WAPF do?

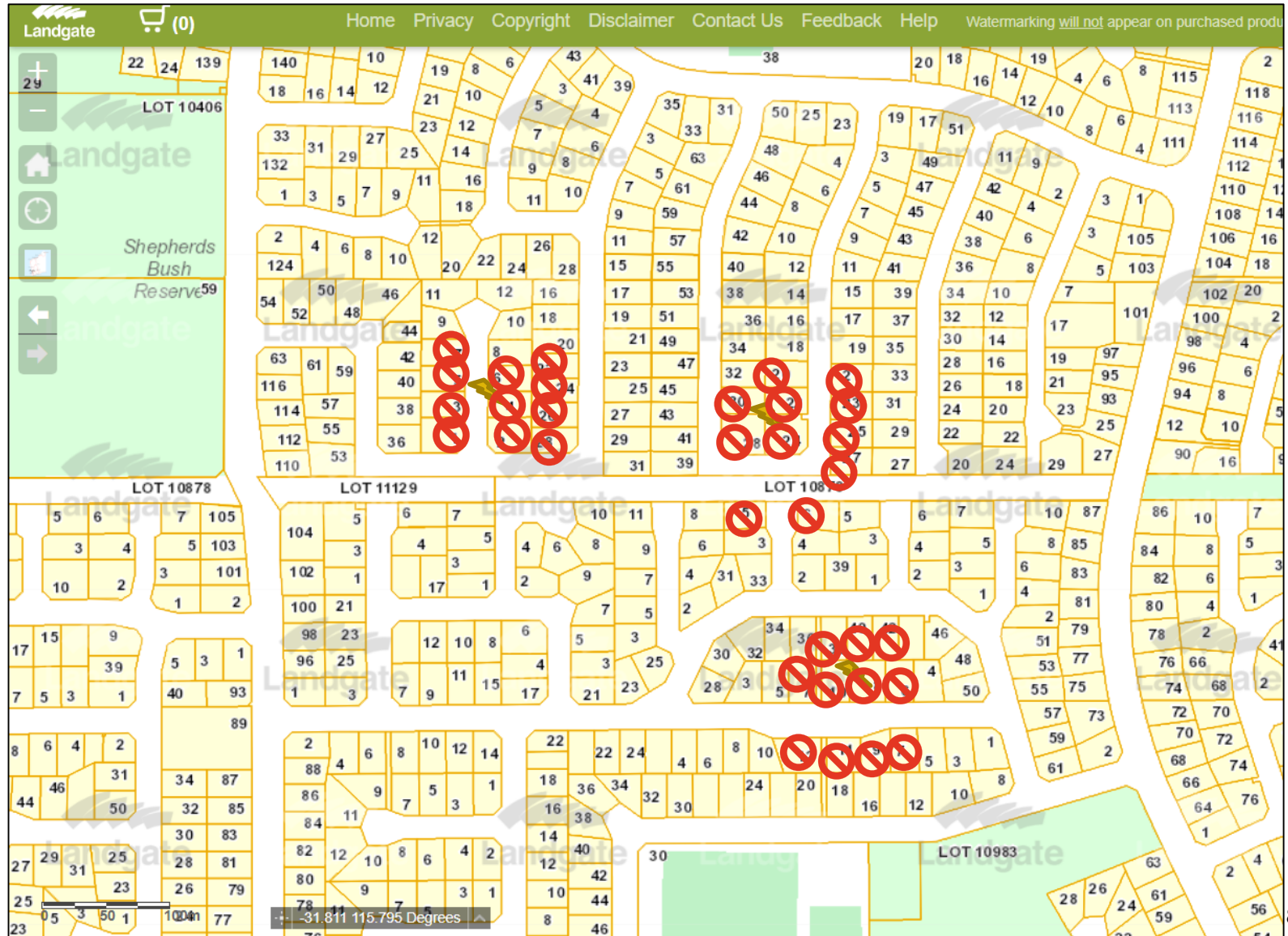




# What did WAPF do?



# What did WAPF do?





# THERE HAS RECENTLY BEEN A BURGLARY IN YOUR AREA AND IT'S POSSIBLE THEY WILL STRIKE AGAIN.

This brochure provides advice on reporting suspicious behaviour to the police and what details to take note of. You know what is and isn't suspicious in your neighbourhood. If you see something odd – report it.

WA Police have been working with local government and volunteers to cut the number of burglaries across the state and, with the community's help, even more burglars will be arrested.

[HTTP://COMMUNITYSAFETY.POLICE.WA.GOV.AU](http://communitysafety.police.wa.gov.au)  
[WWW.CRIMEPREVENTION.WA.GOV.AU](http://www.crimeprevention.wa.gov.au)  
[WWW.GOODBYEGRAFFITI.WA.GOV.AU](http://www.goodbye graffiti.wa.gov.au)  
[WWW.NHW.WA.GOV.AU](http://www.nhw.wa.gov.au) (NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH)

## IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

Police assistance	131 444
Emergency	000
Emergency- mobile phone	112
Emergency- hearing impaired	106
Crimestoppers	1800 333 000
Goodbye Graffiti Hotline	1800 442 255
Community Engagement Division	(08) 9222 1300



**BURGLARY  
COCOONING  
ADVICE**

# BURGLAR ALERT

BURGLARS HAVE BEEN AT WORK IN YOUR AREA.  
READ ON TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN PROTECT  
YOUR HOME AND ASSIST POLICE.



**PREVENTING CRIME IS  
EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**

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EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**

Community Engagement Division  
Level 3, 2 Adelaide Terrace East Perth WA 6004  
Email: [community.engagement.division@police.wa.gov.au](mailto:community.engagement.division@police.wa.gov.au)

Neighbourhood  
Watch

**Police 131 444**  
Save 000 for emergencies



# YOU CAN HELP

If you suspect that someone in your area has committed a crime or you've seen something suspicious, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

## WHAT TO REPORT TO POLICE

- ▶ The day, date and time of any suspicious activity
- ▶ Vehicles
  - registration number
  - type, make and model
  - colour, features
  - damage
- ▶ Suspicious people
  - gender
  - age
  - what they look like (hair colour, facial features, etc)
  - clothing
  - features (eg tattoos)
  - if/what they were carrying (ie: property)

## WHAT TO DO....

**If you suspect someone's inside your house,** don't go inside, go to your neighbour's house and call the police.

**If you see an intruder leaving your home,** make a note of their physical appearance, what sort of vehicle they're driving, including the number plate. Those details will be important when you report the burglary to police on 131 444.

**If the burglar has gone,** don't touch anything. Police may be able to gather evidence including any DNA or fingerprint samples. New police technology is catching more criminals, faster.

**Report** stolen credit cards and cheques to your bank as soon as possible.

**Check with your neighbours** to see if they noticed anything suspicious.

**Contact your insurance company** which will ask for your police incident report number. An assessor may want to visit and will want full details of what's been taken.

**Ruin a burglar's day** – secure your home and improve the safety of your local neighbourhood by:

- ▶ Keeping your home locked if you are at home or out. Over 30% of burglaries in WA occur through unlocked doors or windows
- ▶ Engraving/marking your driver's licence number onto your property for easy identification
- ▶ Recording serial numbers of items such as TVs, ipods, stereos and mobile phones
- ▶ Trimming or clearing trees or shrubs which may prevent a clear view to your house
- ▶ Installing quality security lighting and burglar alarms
- ▶ Having quality deadlocks on all your external doors and using key locks on your windows
- ▶ Installing security screens so you can have your windows open without inviting burglars in
- ▶ Joining Neighbourhood Watch through the website [www.nhw.wa.gov.au](http://www.nhw.wa.gov.au)



# SAFETY CHECK LIST

Use the following guide to conduct your own home security audit. The more 'yes' boxes you can tick, the harder you make it for burglars.

Is your house number clearly visible from the street?	Y	N
Are your trees and shrubs trimmed so it's hard for burglars to hide behind?	Y	N
Do you have solid core doors?	Y	N
Do you have locks and deadbolts or deadlocks fitted?	Y	N
Do you have security screens on doors and windows?	Y	N
Does your door have a peephole?	Y	N
Do your windows have key-locks or security devices?	Y	N
Does your house have an automatic light timer or sensor lights?	Y	N
Do you leave lights on when you go out at night?	Y	N
Are the entrances to your home well lit?	Y	N
Is your home fitted with an alarm?	Y	N
Is the garage or shed kept locked?	Y	N
Are your tools and ladders stored away?	Y	N
Is the meter box locked?	Y	N
Are your contents and valuables engraved or marked for easy identification?	Y	N
Have you recorded the serial numbers?	Y	N
Do you have window stickers letting burglars know you have an alarm and your property is marked?	Y	N
Is there a phone or mobile in the bedroom with emergency numbers handy?	Y	N
Do you have a dog?	Y	N
Have you joined Neighbourhood Watch?	Y	N

Advice and information on security products and installation from licensed security operators is encouraged.





# SAFETY CHECK LIST

**Ruin a burglar's day** – secure your home and improve the

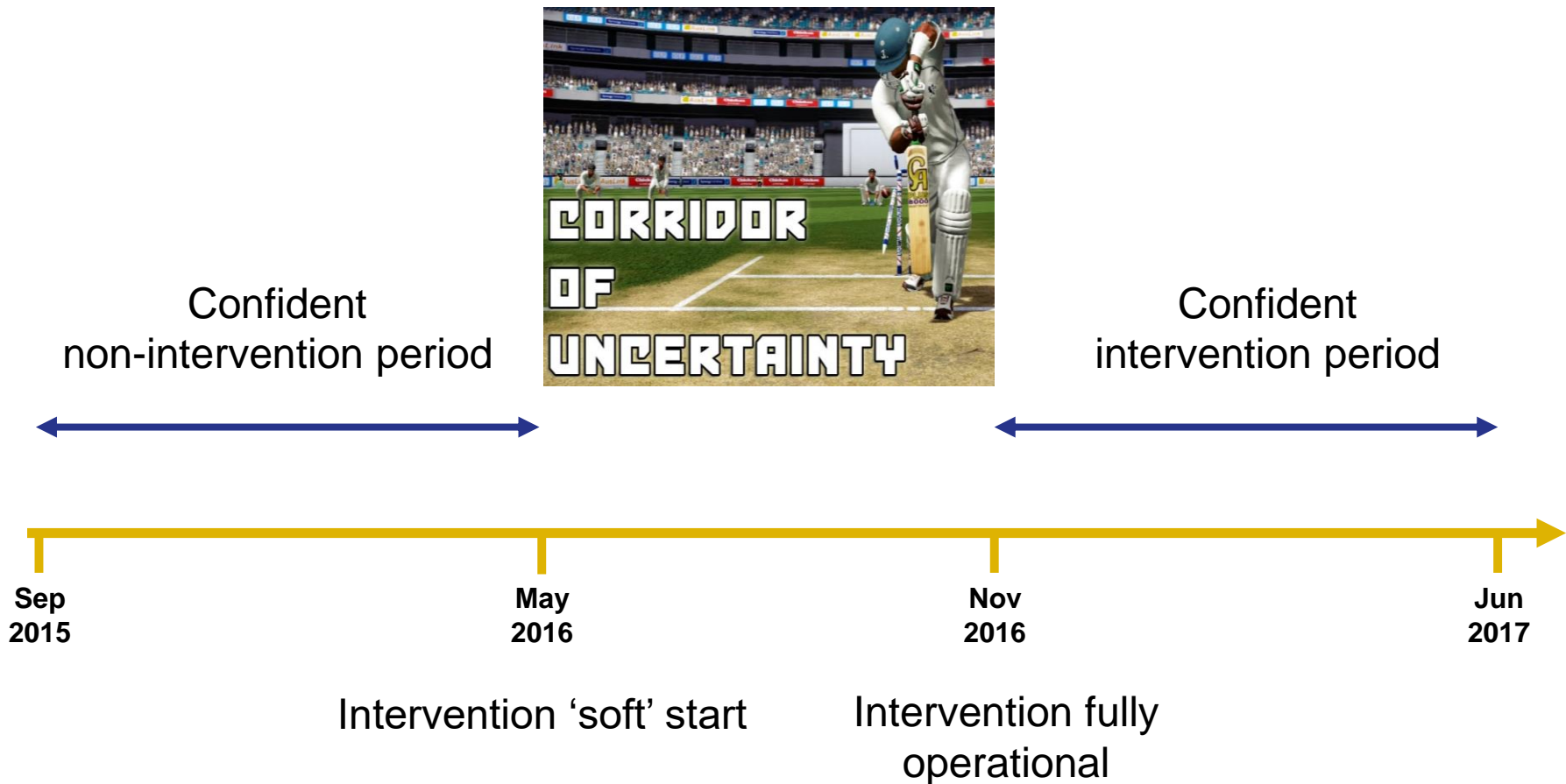
- ## Underpinned by changing the opportunity structure

# Risk, reward, effort, excuses, and provocations

on the street?	Y	N
and for	Y	N
	Y	N
books fitted?	Y	N
windows?	Y	N
	Y	N
for devices?	Y	N
inner or	Y	N
light?	Y	N
	Y	N
	Y	N
	Y	N
	Y	N
	Y	N
marked for	Y	N
	Y	N
cars know	Y	N
marked?		
with	Y	N
	Y	N
	Y	N

**Advice and information on security products and installation from licensed security operators is encouraged.**

# Intervention timeline



# What they didn't do

- Didn't **know** if they had a problem
  - Same address and/or
  - Near repeat burglary problem
- Didn't design their intervention to allow process or impact evaluation
  - Did everyone who was meant to receive information actually receive information?
  - Did the information influence behaviour in a way that would reduce burglary risk?



# Our 'before' period ( $n = 207$ burglaries)

	0-5 days	6-10 days	11-15 days	16-20 days	21-25 days	26-30 days	31-35 days	36-40 days	41-45 days	46-50 days	> 50 days
Repeat victim											
1-50 m											
51-100 m											
101-150 m											
151-200 m											
201-250 m											
251-300 m											
301-350 m											
351-400 m											
401-450 m											
451-500 m											
> 500 m											

Using Ratcliffe's near repeat  
calculator

For details of license requirements and other  
details, see [www.jratcliffe.net](http://www.jratcliffe.net)

# Our 'before' period ( $n = 207$ burglaries)

	0-5 days	6-10 days	11-15 days	16-20 days	21-25 days	26-30 days	31-35 days	36-40 days	41-45 days	46-50 days	> 50 days
Repeat victim	505%		524%								
1-50 m	671%										
51-100 m	315%								276%		
101-150 m	230%				144%			157%			
151-200 m	134%	143%									
201-250 m											
251-300 m	279%		161%								
301-350 m											
351-400 m											
401-450 m											
451-500 m											
> 500 m											

%s show relative chance of another incident in the time/space window

## Our 'before' period ( $n = 207$ burglaries)

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101-150 m											
151-200 m											
201-250 m											
251-300 m											
301-350 m											
351-400 m											
401-450 m											
451-500 m											
> 500 m											

Repeat victimisation pattern

Near repeat victimisation patterns

- 1-200 m within 5 days

# Our 'during/after' period ( $n = 259$ burgs)

	0-5 days	6-10 days	11-15 days	16-20 days	21-25 days	26-30 days	31-35 days	36-40 days	41-45 days	46-50 days	> 50 days
Repeat victim											
1-50 m											
51-100 m											
101-150 m											
151-200 m											
201-250 m											
251-300 m											
301-350 m											
351-400 m											
401-450 m											
451-500 m											
> 500 m											

# Our 'during/after' period ( $n = 259$ burgs)

	0-5 days	6-10 days	11-15 days	16-20 days	21-25 days	26-30 days	31-35 days	36-40 days	41-45 days	46-50 days	> 50 days
Repeat victim	754%										
1-50 m											
51-100 m											
101-150 m											
151-200 m											
201-250 m											
251-300 m											
301-350 m											
351-400 m											
401-450 m											
451-500 m											
> 500 m											



# Our 'during/after' period ( $n = 259$ b...gs)

	0-5 days	6-10	11-15 days	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40 days	41-45 days	46-50 days	> 50 days
Repeat victim	754%										
1-50 m											
51-100 m											
101-150 m											
151-200 m											
201-250 m											
251-300 m											
301-350 m											
351-400 m											
401-450 m											
451-500 m											
> 500 m											

The near repeat patterns are no greater than expected by chance alone

**Still have a large same address repeat victimisation pattern!**

# What we found out about the process

- 6.7% of properties burgled post-intervention experienced repeat victimisation
  - Prevention would have stopped 22 burglaries (reducing victimisation by 8.5%)
- There were repeats in cocooning properties as well
  - 1,286 properties 'cocooned' once
  - 67 twice
  - 11 three times
- 68 properties were both victims and cocooned
  - Only 11 of these received the cocooning information prior to victimisation
- 238 properties were burglary victims in the intervention period
  - **Only 23.2% received the burglary prevention information!!!**
  - Three-quarters of victims were left 'untreated'

## What WAPF didn't know

- They cocooned some properties on multiple occasions
- Victim properties had failed to receive prevention information over 75% of the time
- Most properties that had been victims and cocooned received the prevention information after being victimised and as a result of a near-by burglary
- **Definite room for improvement on process**

# Did the information 'do' anything?

- The NRC results give hope that there was some behavioural change as a result of the intervention
- The post-hoc nature of the evaluation made it difficult to know for sure
- Did the best we could by conducting a survey of information recipients
  - Hard-copy letters distributed by WAPol
  - Directed respondents to an online survey
  - Very low response rate (2.2%):  $n = 35$  respondents
- **Definite room for improvement on the evaluation**

# Did the information 'do' anything?

- From the 35 respondents...
- 20 remembered receiving the information
  - 3 of these received the pamphlet more than once
  - 18 read the pamphlet
  - 9 utilised the safety checklist
    - All of these had window security
    - 8 had solid core doors
    - 7 kept trees/shrubs trimmed, had well-lit entrances, and locked garages
    - 5 had automatic light times/sensor lights, and alarms



# Did the information 'do' anything?

- From the 35 respondents...
- 20 remembered receiving the information
  - 13 made security changes as a result of the pamphlet
    - Keep houses locked when home
    - Installed security screens/deadlocks on windows/doors
- When no changes were made
  - Residents believed current security was adequate
  - Financial restrictions prevented implementing change
  - Changes had already been made for other reasons
  - Sceptical about increased level of risk

# Applying the SARA framework

- They did a bit of **Scanning**
  - Used knowledge of year/month comparisons on burgers
  - See Ratcliffe's blog for criticisms of this approach...

## Jerry Ratcliffe

Policing, criminal intelligence, and crime science

[Home](#) [Blog](#) [Books](#) ▾

### Year-to-date comparisons and why we should stop doing them

Jerry Ratcliffe

July 13, 2017

Crime analysis

homicide rates

Year-to-date comparisons are common in both policing and the media. They involve comparing the cumulative crime count for the current year up to a certain date and comparing to the same point in the preceding year. For a Philadelphia example from April of this year, [NBC reported that homicides were up 20 percent in 2017 compared to 2016](#). You can also find these types of comparison in the Compstat meetings of many police departments.

# Applying the SARA framework

- They did a bit of **Analysis**
  - The Senior Sergeant received EBP training that mentioned cocooning
  - He thought it sounded 'doable'
- However, they didn't confirm this was a local 'problem'
  - Repeat analysis
  - NRC analysis
- Luck turned out it was

# Applying the SARA framework

- The **Response** wasn't connected to theory or analysis
  - It was based on something that could be done with existing resources
  - No ongoing process evaluation
  - No behavioural change measures collected
- No connection between this intervention and anything else that could have been done to tweak other sides of the crime triangle

# Applying the SARA framework

- The **Assessment** was non-existent before our marriage of fortune
- Post-hoc nature of the evaluation created significant limitations
  - Implementation issues weren't detected
  - Measuring behavioural change after the fact was difficult
  - Lack of repeat monitoring meant to tiered response was possible to manage chronic repeats or near repeats



Good  
Start

We Can Do Better

# Thank you

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**Stokes, N. & Clare, J. Secur J (2019) 32: 45. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41284-018-0144-3>**

