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10-YEAR LOW IN UNLAWFUL ENTRIES

Police Minister Paul Henderson today commended the NT Police on their hard work in continuing to drive down crime rates following today’s release of new Australian Bureau of Statistics figures showing unlawful entry rates in the NT are at a 10-year low.

The ABS national Recorded Crime – Victims 2004 shows the number of unlawful entries in the Northern Territory fell by almost 900 incidents between 2003 to 2004, from 4221 to 3424.

“One break-in is one too many, but these are significant results reflecting the hard work of the men and women of the NT Police in targeting property crime,” Mr Henderson said.

“The rate of unlawful entries has been falling since 2001, and the 10-year low revealed in this report is a credit to all those working on the front-line against crime.”

The incidents of crime in the NT fell in all categories recorded in the report, except manslaughter and extortion.

On a national comparison, the Northern Territory recorded the lowest per capita rate for motor vehicle theft at 233.6 per 100,000 people, compared to the national rate of 437.2, and the second lowest rate for robbery at 29.0 per 100,000 people, compared to the national rate of 82.0.

Mr Henderson said he was saddened the murder rates in the Northern Territory continue to be at disproportionately high levels.

“With the extra resources delivered by the Martin Government’s $75M Building our Police Force Plan, NT Police have now established the Personal and Domestic Violence Protection Unit to target these serious crimes with proven intelligence-led policing techniques,” he said.

“While the results in the report are encouraging, the Martin Government knows there is always more to be done in building safer communities for all Territorians.

“With 120 extra police now on the beat and 80 more on the way the Martin Government will continue to give the Police the tools needed in the ongoing fight against crime.”

Contact: Rebecca Cass 0401 110 389