



## Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other

### South Mitchell

### What is Relay Theft?

Cars are increasingly being stolen by criminals using technology to exploit the keyless entry systems found in many modern vehicles.

This method, often referred to as a 'relay attack', involves using electronic devices to amplify and relay the signal from a car's key fob to unlock and start the vehicle.

Typically, two thieves work together. Here is how the process generally works:

1. One person stands near the car with a device that can capture the signal from the key fob. The other stands closer to the house with another device to relay the signal.
2. The device near the house picks up the key fob signal and amplifies it, sending it to the accomplice's device near the car.
3. The car receives the relayed signal and interprets it as if the key fob is nearby. This allows the thieves to unlock the car and start the engine, driving away without physically possessing the key.

This type of car theft has been reported in various regions in relatively low numbers within Australia. However, the risk is still present as the technology becomes more common in Australia.

#### How to Avoid Being a Victim of Relay Theft

There are several things you can do to protect yourself from relay theft:

- Use a Faraday Pouch – these pouches are lined with metallic material that blocks the signal;
- Turn off the Keyless feature – check your owner's manual to see if this is an option to disable keyless entry or at least use the sleep mode if available to prevent them from emitting a signal when the car is not in use;
- Fit a steering wheel lock – this will make it more difficult to drive away with your vehicle even if they unlock it; and
- Ensure your car's software is up to date.

#### How to Stop Theft from Vehicles

Most thieves break into cars because they see something they want inside. Thieves will break windows and damage locks in a matter of seconds to steal your valuables. Or, they may go from car-to-car until they find one that's unlocked. Follow our tips to protect your belongings:

- Park securely – in a locked garage, or a well-lit street;
- Remove all valuable items, such as mobile phones, laptops, tablets, wallet, sunglasses, coats, etc.
- ALWAYS take spare house keys and your door opener out of your vehicle when you leave it; and
- ALWAYS lock your car, even when parking at home, buying fuel or dashing into the shops.

More information is available at the Neighbourhood Watch website at <https://nhw.com.au/>.

#### Hotlines:

**000**

#### Emergency

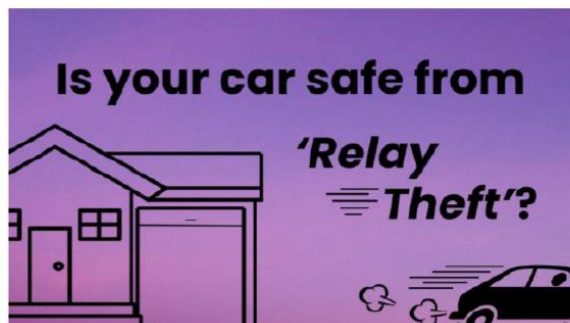
**131 444**

**Police Assistance Line**

**1800 333 000**

**Crime Stoppers**

Online Reporting: <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/palor>



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