

## Design out crime at your business using surveillance

Surveillance enhances safety by using space, lighting, and technology to reduce concealment areas, such as avoiding walls near entrances and installing visible lighting and video surveillance. For example, a business might add lights and CCTV around entrances to improve visibility.

People naturally feel safer when they have an awareness of their surroundings and in turn, an offender looking for criminal opportunities will perceive a risk of capture or identification should they be clearly seen or are being observed.

Good natural surveillance should be achievable in most areas but is particularly important around buildings and car parks. Building design and area integration strategies should avoid the creation of blind spots with poor natural surveillance.

### Good surveillance



**Figure 1:** Areas designed for passive and electronic surveillance deter anti-social behaviour and create feelings of safety and community ownership.

There should be limited obstructions to open surveillance and care is needed to minimise shrubbery height and maximise tree canopies to avoid blocking lines of sight and restricting natural surveillance opportunity. Ideally, shrubbery heights should be limited to 500mm and tree canopies above three (3) metres.

Street design may have a focus on large deciduous trees to enhance street beautification. Sufficient lighting should provide a minimum of 20 lux balanced white light and minimise interference between lighting and trees to support natural surveillance during hours of darkness.

Car parks boarded by large windowless walls and alleyways significantly reduces natural surveillance and access control in the area.

### Poor surveillance



**Figure 2:** Isolated areas with no natural or electronic surveillance creates opportunity for anti-social behaviour and opportunistic crimes and legitimate area users may also have feelings of being less safe.