

## Design out crime at your business through target hardening

Target Hardening involves adding security features, like deadbolt locks, protective window films, and gates, to make it harder for intruders to break into a building. For example, a business owner might install tempered steel deadbolts and window films to prevent break-ins.

People naturally feel safer when they have an awareness of their surroundings and in turn, if there is a presence of security or a high likelihood of a security or police response.

CCTV surveillance and related signage is acknowledged as a valuable and effective tool for the protection of people and property. CCTV plays an active deterrence role to reduce and manage anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol related crime, offences against persons and property and as a powerful investigative tool for local Police. Alongside crime deterrence, the public CCTV system improves the perception of community safety and property protection.

Care should be taken to ensure sign structures are extremely high strength to sustain an attack to avoid damage impacts which will reduce maintenance costs and deter subsequent attacks.

Site surveys may identify vehicle access control vulnerabilities. Area redevelopment provides an opportunity to design out existing vulnerabilities and perform security upgrades.

Australian Government guidance notes released

for the purpose of mitigating the risk of a vehicle as a weapon refers to the low sophistication of attacks which may be conducted by lone individuals, operating independently or impulsively.

The consequence of a risk may be described in terms of fatalities/casualties, economic loss, disruption of services and reputational damage. Therefore, assessing what factors will influence the likelihood of a vehicle incident is difficult. In addition, with high traffic and parking volumes, there is an inherent risk of stray vehicles driven by poorly skilled, elderly or reckless drivers.

As with any risk assessment, the vulnerability of a site is assessed based on the adequacy of existing controls.

Signage should be considered for safety orientated messages and for crime prevention purposes. The importance of effective placement of signage cannot be underestimated. Location, height and existing visual distractions are major factors which contribute to the effectiveness of a sign when installed. Signs should be checked regularly for damage or theft.

CCTV Signage should be erected at all formal or high traffic access points within monitored areas and at each camera location. It is important that CCTV signage be installed in positions which allow the best opportunity to capture the attention of pedestrians and improve safety and crime risk management.

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### Good target hardening



**Figure 1:** Appropriate use of bollards to restrict or deter vehicle access whilst facilitating pedestrian access and use of signage to cover the bollards creates an alternative dual purpose.

### Poor target hardening



**Figure 2:** Car park entrance has been target hardened with a spiked steel fence and barbed wire however with adjacent bollards and bins providing readily available scaling points for a motivated offender.