

2.5 ANPR Implementation

Talking Points

- The ANPR Scoping Study Project was formally closed on 29 May 2009. The study took a national and whole of government view of the potential value of ANPR technology.
- The report has been noted by MCPEMP and each jurisdiction has preferred to adopt ANPR technology to suit their local conditions.
- In order to encourage uniformity across the states/territories, CrimTrac is working with jurisdictions to define common elements and standards in order to facilitate potential future national information sharing.
- The ANPR Sponsoring Group evaluates current and planned jurisdictional ANPR capabilities with a view to identifying opportunities for national connectivity, exchange of data and interoperability.
- Although all jurisdictions indicated support for ANPR trial and evaluation activities, the main concern was funding and resources.
- It was decided that no national trial would proceed due to a lack of funding. States and territories have also indicated there are no dedicated funds to support a national trial.
- Three specific resolutions came out of the MCMEMP SOG meeting in April 2009. They were: consider and advise on technical standards; consider how a trial may proceed; and advise how the ANPR project should be managed in the future.
- States and Territories are using ANPR in an effective, localised way, on the back of a national scoping study on the use of ANPR in a nationally consistent manner. Current jurisdictional activities include:

- NSW Police are now undertaking a project to equip a number of police vehicles with ANPR systems across the state, following successful trials.
- Victoria Police are continuing to conduct trials with this technology.
- Tasmania Police have commenced conducting a trial in conjunction with their road traffic authority.
- Queensland Police are undertaking a trial in conjunction with the Qld Department of Transport.
- SA are trialling some in-car and fixed site ANPR capabilities.
- WA uses some mobile ANPR technology in limited areas.
- The ACT is planning to introduce some additional ANPR capacity in the form of fixed point to point cameras to reduce speeding, but also indicates that unlicensed drivers and stolen and unregistered cars will be able to be recorded.
- NT does not have any actual ANPR capability.
- States and Territories trialling the system have reported significant successes in detecting unlicensed and suspended drivers, unregistered vehicles and drivers with outstanding fines.

Background

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission recommended, in its 2007 'Inquiry into the Future Impact of Serious and Organised Crime on Australian Society', that 'the Commonwealth, state and territory governments implement a national number place recognition system'.

CrimTrac commenced a scoping study on ANPR technology in May 2007 after receiving funding under the Commonwealth *Proceeds of Crimes Act 2000*. The final report recommended the introduction of a national ANPR capability and acknowledged the delivery of significant benefits to communities and governments, particularly in the areas of road safety, law enforcement and national security. The report was presented to the former Minister for Home Affairs for consideration in April 2009.

The report was also presented to MCPEMP SOG in April 2009. SOG referred the report back to the CrimTrac Board of Management to consider national technical standards, trial and evaluation activities and the future management of the program.

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The Attorney-General's Department provided a submission to the Minister on the ANPR Scoping Study in August 2009 outlining the background to the Study and the proposed benefits of a national scheme. The submission also noted that all jurisdictions were interested in progressing a national trial, however cited funding as an issue as there are no funds dedicated to fully fund national implementation.

Since the tabling of that submission, the CrimTrac Board of Management meeting in September 2009 requested that the ANPR Sponsoring Group evaluate current and planned jurisdictional ANPR capabilities with a view to identifying opportunities for national connectivity, exchange of data and interoperability. The Board also noted that the Multi-jurisdictional Architecture Group and Chief Information Officers have been requested to progress the development of ANPR standards (which would allow for national connectivity, exchange of data and interoperability). This work is ongoing.

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