

## Rethink on Juvenile Offender Laws

Dear Mr. Williams,

We live in Dareton NSW 2717, having done so all our lives.

Building a home in 2005-2006 on our twelve acres behind the township, moving into home Feb. 2006.

Feb. 2007 we travelled to Gisborne (leaving the place secure), only to be rang by my brother to return home immediately as our new home had been trashed.

We were afraid the perpetrators would return to steal the electrical equipment; T.V.'s etc. The offenders smashed a glass door, trampling shattered glass throughout our home. (all polished floorboards). Opening every cupboard, trashing every room, stealing mainly money from the house.

Tools and guns were stolen from the shed. Although the police were helpful – the home was never the same.

We have lived in Dareton all our lives. Our 67 acre property ran alongside Namatjira Ave. For 26 years we had a great relationship with our neighbours and two large dogs, hence minimal problems.

The main issue here is that young offenders receive little or no punishment. Everyone needs consequences for their actions. If young/repeat offenders are given clean up orders from a judge – no one follows this through. It is a joke. These young people have no respect for themselves or anyone else. No sense of direction. Our courts and their parents are failing them. Perhaps Parents should be accountable.

The Laws must mean something or is it all a waste of taxpayers' money?

My husband and I have no intention of leaving the area, we like it here, but would prefer not to have to spend money on more security which will be the case if the offenders' do not get the correct message.

In other words YES to the three issues raised.

Yours faithfully,

Ron & Jeanette Stephens  
Dareton NSW 2717