



Members of the night patrol Mislam Sam, William Blackman, Raoul Miller, Valmay Doomadgee, Sylvia Doomadgee and Ebanese Oui. Picture: Supplied

Aussies rush to buy car

Tradies are rushing out to buy one car model before a tax-break ends next month.

The federal government announced in the budget that a popular tax write-off scheme that tradies used to buy new work utes would be slashed on June 30.

Tradies and small business owners now have less than two months to make the most of the tax-break before it drops to a less than a third of the original discount.

The amount businesses are able to claim on new equipment will drop from \$65,000 to \$20,000.

To add to the pressure, the global car manufacturing industry is still facing major delays due to stock shortages and production slowdowns.

The deduction will no longer be an instant asset write-off with the deduction made over three financial years rather than one.

It will also be restricted to businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$10m.

It is the lowest limit placed on the Instant Asset Write-Off scheme for new car purchases since it started in 2011, with a limit of \$57,000 placed in 2019.

The measure was due to expire on June 30 and the government elected to not renew it.

Citizens on patrol

Palm Island community hit the streets to curb crime

Natasha Emeck

Residents on Palm Island have taken spiralling youth crime issues into their own hands with a new night patrol group that's already seen an "extraordinary" reduction in property crime.

After an alarming spike in property crime last month, residents on Palm Island have worked with members of the local council and Manbarra rangers to start a community night patrol.

Each night teams of volunteers patrol the town centre, talking to wandering children and encouraging them to go home.

Within a matter of weeks, the initiative has already had a

"massive impact" on property crime on the island, according to Mayor Mislam Sam.

The council said only a handful of minor incidents have occurred over the last three weeks, compared to the chaotic three days before the patrols began, which saw more than 60 incidents.

Cr Sam said it was inspiring to see residents step up and take back control of their town instead of waiting on solutions from outsiders.

"Our community members just stood up and said we need to be out there talking to the kids, moving them on and dealing with them on a local level," he said.

"It's been a major success so far, we've had. There's been

zero property crime in the areas they've patrolled.

"I'm very much impressed by one of our local elders, who's probably in his mid-70s and is out every night.

"Just the other day, some local community patrol fellas sat down with a group of kids involved in a lot of the crime.

"They had a good talk to them for over an hour. I think the message was quite clear from the elders.

"They told them that young people should be at school and at home in bed and committing to be the future leaders in community, rather than destroying everything we're trying to build.

"They told them they loved them and wanted them to go

home and tell their parents they loved them too.

"I think that message spoke volumes to them because some of these kids need that extra support. They're disengaged from school and just hanging around."

Cr Sam said the patrol group was initially set up to run as a three-month trial with a budget of \$100,000 — with support from the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and National Indigenous Australians Agency — but he wanted to see it expand beyond that.

Officer in Charge at Palm Island police station, Acting Senior Sergeant Darren Tam-

blyn said the patrols had been very effective, with most kids listening to elders and going home, instead of hanging out in the mall in large groups.

"The patrols are covering a significant period of the night and it seems to be working really well," he said.

"I was really surprised on the first night there were zero reported break-ins and very little youth activity or loitering behaviour."

Sgt Tambyn said the initiative was also helping police improve their engagement.

"We're getting to know who's out and about overnight as we engage heavily with the patrol group and there's information sharing between us," he said.

Mysterious radio waves

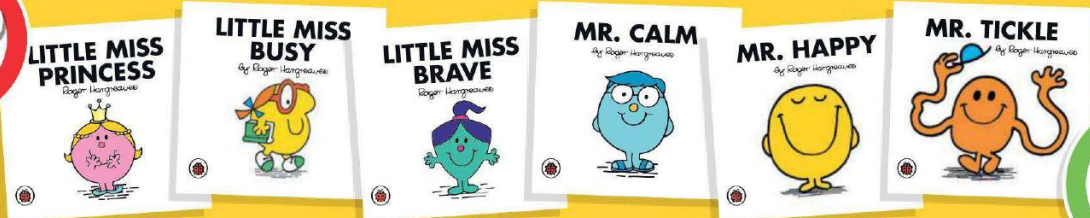
An international team of researchers has revealed new evidence on the nature of mysterious fast radio bursts (FRBs) — objects in space that produce brief, intense flashes of radio waves from distant galaxies. Leading astronomers from Western Sydney University and CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, contributed to the study that shows, for the first time, a reversible magnetic field around an FRB. The observations of a repeating FRB, dubbed "20190520B", made over a 17-month period using CSIRO's Parkes radio telescope, Murriyang and the Green Bank Telescope.

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