



Criminals can expect to cop a spray of DNA to hopefully make them pay

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Regional Reporter

A SECRET weapon is being used against crooks who target businesses and sports clubs in sleepy coastal hamlets.

A DNA spray can create a forensic link between offenders and the crime scene, and is seen as the solution to a spate of armed hold-ups. If activated, the device showers criminals with a burst of mist, which is made of UV tracer, DNA and water, that can stay on the skin for up to eight weeks.

Yamba, which once topped the list of the best tourist towns in Australia, is under siege by youth crime and is the latest place to have the DNA device installed.

Yamba Golf Club general manager Greg Acet said he installed the device after the premises was broken in to five times last year, costing thousands of dollars.

“The cost of the device is significant but compared to the damage caused by criminals, it’s nothing,” Mr Acet said.

“(Youth crime) got so bad that

people are considering not coming back to Yamba.”

Further south at Crescent Head, Foodworks owner Pam Bryant installed the device in September — the same time as the country club across the road.

“We are only a small business but it’s a small price to pay for security,” Mrs Bryant said.

Others, including Wauchope RSL, Wauchope Country Club, Old Bar Club, and Laurieton and Taree West bowling clubs, are considering the spray. Fast food giant McDon-

ald’s is also trialling a DNA spray at six stores in NSW.

DNA Security Solutions managing director Tania Jolley, whose company installs the device, said the technology was developed in the UK 15 years ago and has been in Australia for seven years.

She said businesses had started to adopt it in the past couple of years for extra security alongside alarms and CCTV cameras.

Ms Jolley said there had been three apprehensions in Australia using this technology.



Clear: How the spray looks under UV light