



horizons

Call for Comment: Futures scanning 2009

2009 Scanning categories

- ***Organised criminal exploitation of people.***
- ***Organised criminal exploitation of markets and commodities.***
- ***Organised criminal exploitation of technology.***

Call for comment

Recipients of this paper are encouraged to provide comments on the futures scanning categories that have been identified and/or suggest topics for future ACC Horizons reports.

Recipients are also encouraged to nominate priority topics for Horizons reporting purposes.

It is intended that this exercise will be undertaken on an annual basis to identify topics for Horizons and other reports for the following year – in this case for 2009.

Responses, including feedback or comment on this paper, should be directed to the Strategic Outlook Team on +61 2 6243 6668 or via email to outlook@crimecommission.gov.au.

Please do not provide responses based on privileged law enforcement, government or industry information.

The information contained this paper is derived from open source information and as such does not constitute a dissemination under the ACC Act 2002.

INTRODUCTION

Horizons reports are provisional reports of emerging areas of potential exploitation by organised criminals. They are based on possibilities rather than probabilities and seek to promote discussion on emerging trends and issues.

To date the ACC has produced three Horizons reports on the following:

- No. 1 - High petrol prices and organised crime
- No. 2 - Global food shortage and organised crime
- No. 3 - A health pandemic and organised crime.

Copies of Horizons reports will be available from <http://www.crimecommission.gov.au> when the website is redeveloped in 2009. The ACC is also exploring a range of options to facilitate ongoing feedback and enquiries regarding Horizons reports.

This paper seeks to raise awareness of potential emerging organised criminal exploitation, seek comment on current scanning categories and ultimately to identify topics for Horizons reports for 2009.

Awareness of potential opportunities for organised criminal exploitation allows governments, agencies, industry and the community to consider and shape responses to reduce the risk of organised criminal activities.

This awareness is raised through futures-based scanning against monitoring categories which provide a repeatable strategic focus for the Horizons program. Scanning against several categories allows the early identification of possible emerging crime issues in the public environment that might arise in the short, medium and long term and helps identify topics for proactive Horizons' reports.

SCANNING CATEGORIES

The ACC has identified three categories of potential organised criminal exploitation for futures scanning. These are:

- Criminal exploitation of people
- Criminal exploitation of markets and commodities
- Criminal exploitation of technology.

These categories have been developed through a combination of research and scanning methodologies. Potential drivers for each category are considered, as are indicators of several types of activity that might be observed. They do not represent a detailed analysis of potential criminal exploitation – rather they reflect possible trends identified over a period of time. These indicators include a brief description and results of scanning on this activity over the past six months.

SCANNING CATEGORY 1. ORGANISED CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION OF PEOPLE

Demographic change relating to human population structures, processes and dynamics are the key drivers for this monitoring category. Common demographics include race, age, income, disabilities, mobility, educational attainment, home ownership, employment status, and location. Demographic changes have the potential to create opportunities for criminal exploitation.

Indicator 1 – changes in exploitation based on, or as a result of, **social alienation** caused by age, gender, religious, ethnic or cultural differences.

Scanning:

- Law graduate calls for better deal for Sudanese refugees http://www.vu.edu.au/About_VU/Media_Releases/Law_graduate_calls_for_better_deal_for_Sudanese_refugees/indexdl_91066.aspx

Indicator 2 – changes in exploitation of people with **specialist skills** including professionals, creative classes, technical specialists (engineers, scientists) and trade specialists, apprentices and students.

Scanning:

- Ombudsman highlights international student exploitation <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/11/2361735.htm>

Indicator 3 – changes in exploitation of people movements including migration.

Scanning:

- Commonwealth Funding To Combat People Trafficking http://www.ministerhomeaffairs.gov.au/www/ministers/ministerdebus.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2008_FourthQuarter_23October2008-CommonwealthFundingtoCombatPeopleTrafficking

Indicator 4 – changes in exploitation of people as a result of **changes to criminal markets** including as a result of natural disasters and pandemics.

Scanning:

- Horizons No. 3 - A health pandemic and organised crime
- Traffickers target child cyclone survivors <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,,23695317-2,00.html>

Indicator 5 – changes in **criminal dynamics** as they relate to people including through the increased use of violent force, changes to the dynamics of perpetrators and victims and the impact of urban migration.

Scanning:

- Offences rising on rail routes with the least staff <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,24632735-2862,00.html>
- Battle of the blade <http://www.ssaa.org.au/newssaa/mediamonitor/july08/040708battle-of-the-blade.html>
- New bikie gang Notorious patrols Kings Cross <http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,,23868624-5001021,00.html>
- Facebook and YouTube 'fuelling crimewave' <http://www.news.com.au/technology/story/0,25642,23984582-5014111,00.html>

Indicator 6 – changes in **novel criminality** which may influence how people think, feel, act and react to crime including novel or innovative variations on existing scams, general gullibility and potential gateway/transitional activities

Scanning:

- Sydney victims fleeced in fake delivery scam <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/beware-a-delivery-man-bearing-gifts/2008/11/07/1225561096628.html>
- Asian gangs Yee Tong, Sing Wah recruit Western Sydney teens <http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,24592264-5006009,00.html>
- Fake popup study sadly confirms most users are idiots <http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20080923-study-confirms-users-are-idiots.html>
- The scams taking home gold <http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,24223070-5014112,00.html>
- Australian teens take on American accents <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,27574,23963970-421,00.html>

SCANNING CATEGORY 2. ORGANISED CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION OF MARKETS AND COMMODITIES

Geopolitical change is a key driver for this monitoring category. Equally relevant is geo-economic change and its impact on the dynamics of economies and resources. Climate change also impacts on both geopolitical and geo-economic change. Geopolitical, geo-economic and climate change all have the potential to create opportunities for criminal exploitation.

Indicator 1 – changes in **global dynamics** particularly with states increasing and maintaining positions of power by pursuing strategies that focus on control of resources and lines of communication. This can include changes as a result of political and economic expansion by major powers, changes as a result of US multilateral partnerships, the impact of unstable regions, and the impact of climate change.

Scanning:

- ASPI Special Report Issue 17 - The thin green line: Climate change and Australian policing http://www.aspi.org.au/publications/publication_details.aspx?ContentID=185
- ASPI Global jigsaw: ASPI's strategic assessment 2008 http://www.aspi.org.au/publications/publication_details.aspx?ContentID=186
- Crime threatens stability of states <http://www.postcourier.com.pg/20081001/wehome.htm>
- The eagle in a turbulent world: US and its global role http://www.aspi.org.au/publications/publication_details.aspx?ContentID=182

Indicator 2 – changes in exploitation of **scarce or valuable commodities** including as a result of petrol or food shortages and the impact of adulterated goods.

Scanning:

- Horizons No. 1 - High petrol prices and organised crime
- Horizons No. 2 - Global food shortage and organised crime
- Water availability could affect property prices <http://www.news.com.au/business/money/story/0,25479,23981830-14327,00.html>

Indicator 3 – changes in exploitation of **financial markets** including through market manipulation, new types of fraud, as a result in changes to the cash economy, expansion into new industries and through the creation of new laundering methods.

Potential indicators:

- 'Pump and Dump' conmen targeted <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7552009.stm>
- Online fraudsters will use cash crisis <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,27574,24573880-23109,00.html>
- Underworld gangs muscle in on markets <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,24337474-662,00.html>

- Yakuza gangs stalk the stock markets in Japan <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24254867-25837,00.html>
- FBI holds 406 for mortgage fraud <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7464298.stm>
- ATO declares war on cash economy <http://business.theage.com.au/business/ato-declares-war-on-cash-economy-20080611-2p36.html>
- Stolen account prices fall as market flooded <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,,24023758-2,00.html>

Indicator 4 – changes in exploitation of **drug markets** including through the creation of markets for new or dangerous drugs.

Scanning:

- Killer pills found in raid http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2008/06/19/4709_local-news.html

Indicator 5 – changes in the overlap between criminality and **terrorism**

Scanning:

- Taliban links found in Korean drug-ring <http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/Taliban-links-found-in-Korean-drugring/331359/>
- Columbian drug ring may link to Hezbollah http://article.wn.com/view/2008/10/25/Colombia_drug_ring_may_link_to_Hezbollah/

SCANNING CATEGORY 3. ORGANISED CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION OF TECHNOLOGY

Change as a result of scientific and technological innovation is the key driver for this monitoring category. The blurring of the boundaries separating traditional scientific work has led to the creation of trans-disciplinary approaches which do not just fuse science and technology but other disciplines as well. Scientific and technological change has the potential to create opportunities for criminal exploitation.

Indicator 1 – changes in exploitation of **law enforcement** and the impact of this including innovation/regulation lags and gaps.

Scanning:

- Organised Crime in Australia http://www.crimecommission.gov.au/content/publications/Other_Publications/080117_Organised_Crime_In_Australia.pdf

Indicator 2 – changes in exploitation of **new technology** including technical/human approaches, dual use technology/chemicals and new data capabilities such as cloud computing.

Scanning:

- Uni cheats outsource to India <http://www.smh.com.au/news/web/sydney-uni-cheats-outsource-to-india/2008/07/03/1214950908513.html>
- Cloud Security <http://www.crn.com.au/Feature/5136,cloud-security.aspx>
- Cellphone Botnets, Blackmailing VOIP & a Healthy Cybercrime Economy <http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=211600782>
- Two Arrested in First Bust for ATM Reprogramming Scam <http://blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2008/09/two-arrested-in.html>
- Computer crime gets seriously organised <http://cio.co.nz/cio.nsf/news6AA2F3D39788952EC2574860072DB7E?Opendocument&HighLight=2,computer,crime,gets,seriously,organised>
- 10 Reasons Enterprises Aren't Ready to Trust the Cloud <http://gigaom.com/2008/07/01/10-reasons-enterprises-arent-ready-to-trust-the-cloud/>
- Keelty warns of robot criminals <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/news/national/keelty-warns-against-robot-criminals/2007/07/05/1183351363490.html>
- Robot soldiers ready for real battlefield <http://www.smh.com.au/news/technology/robot-soldiers-ready-for-battle/2008/07/01/1214678045533.html>

2009 Horizons scanning categories

Scanning category 1. Organised criminal exploitation of people

Indicator 1 – changes in exploitation based on, or as a result of, social alienation

Indicator 2 – changes in exploitation of people with specialist skills

Indicator 3 – changes in exploitation of people movements

Indicator 4 – changes in exploitation of people as a result of changes to criminal markets

Indicator 5 – changes in criminal dynamics as they relate to people

Indicator 6 – changes in novel criminality which may influence how people think, feel, act and react to crime.

Scanning category 2. Organised criminal exploitation of markets and commodities

Indicator 1 – changes in global dynamics

Indicator 2 – changes in exploitation of scarce or valuable commodities

Indicator 3 – changes in exploitation of financial markets

Indicator 4 – changes in exploitation of drug markets

Indicator 5 – changes in the overlap between criminality and terrorism.

Scanning category 3. Organised criminal exploitation of technology

Indicator 1 – changes in exploitation of law enforcement

Indicator 2 – changes in exploitation of new technology.

