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Crypto ATM Scams Surge Across Tasmania

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Authorities in Tasmania are sounding the alarm as a growing number of residents fall victim to cryptocurrency automated teller machine (ATM) scams, with fraudsters using deceptive tactics to trick victims into transferring.

A wave of cryptocurrency-related scams has swept across Tasmania, with authorities warning residents to be extra cautious when using cryptocurrency automated teller machines (ATMs). The rise in these scams has raised concerns among law enforcement agencies, who say fraudsters are targeting everyday people with sophisticated and convincing tactics.

According to Tasmania Police, a growing number of victims have reported being deceived into transferring large sums of money via cryptocurrency ATMs. These machines, designed to convert cash into digital currency like Bitcoin, are being exploited by scammers who manipulate their targets often through phone calls to make urgent transfers.

In most cases, scammers pretend to be from trusted institutions such as the Australian Taxation Office, major banks, or law enforcement. Victims are told they owe money or that their bank accounts have been compromised. Under pressure, they are instructed to withdraw cash and deposit it into a crypto ATM. Once the funds are converted into cryptocurrency, they are sent to digital wallets controlled by the scammers, making them almost impossible to recover.

Police have highlighted that these scams are particularly dangerous because they combine emotional pressure with emerging technology, making them difficult for some victims to detect. In some reports, victims believed they were helping law enforcement track criminal activity, unaware they were actually funding it.

Tasmania Police are now working with financial institutions and community leaders to spread awareness. The public is being urged to never send money via cryptocurrency ATMs at the direction of someone they do not know, especially over the phone. If someone is claiming to be from a government agency and demanding payment in cryptocurrency, it is almost certainly a scam.

Detective Inspector Troy Morrisby stressed the importance of taking a moment to verify any suspicious claims. “Government agencies and legitimate businesses will never demand payment via crypto ATMs. If you’re feeling pressured, stop, hang up, and contact the organisation directly,” he said.

Authorities also recommend that people speak to friends, family members, or trusted individuals before transferring money in unusual circumstances. This second opinion can often prevent a scam from succeeding.

As these scams continue to rise, awareness remains the strongest defense. Tasmania Police are encouraging anyone who believes they have been targeted or scammed to report the incident through the Australian Cyber Security Centre’s ReportCyber platform or by contacting local police. With cryptocurrency becoming more accessible, scammers are

adapting quickly. Staying informed, cautious, and skeptical of unsolicited demands for money can help protect individuals from falling victim to these modern frauds.