

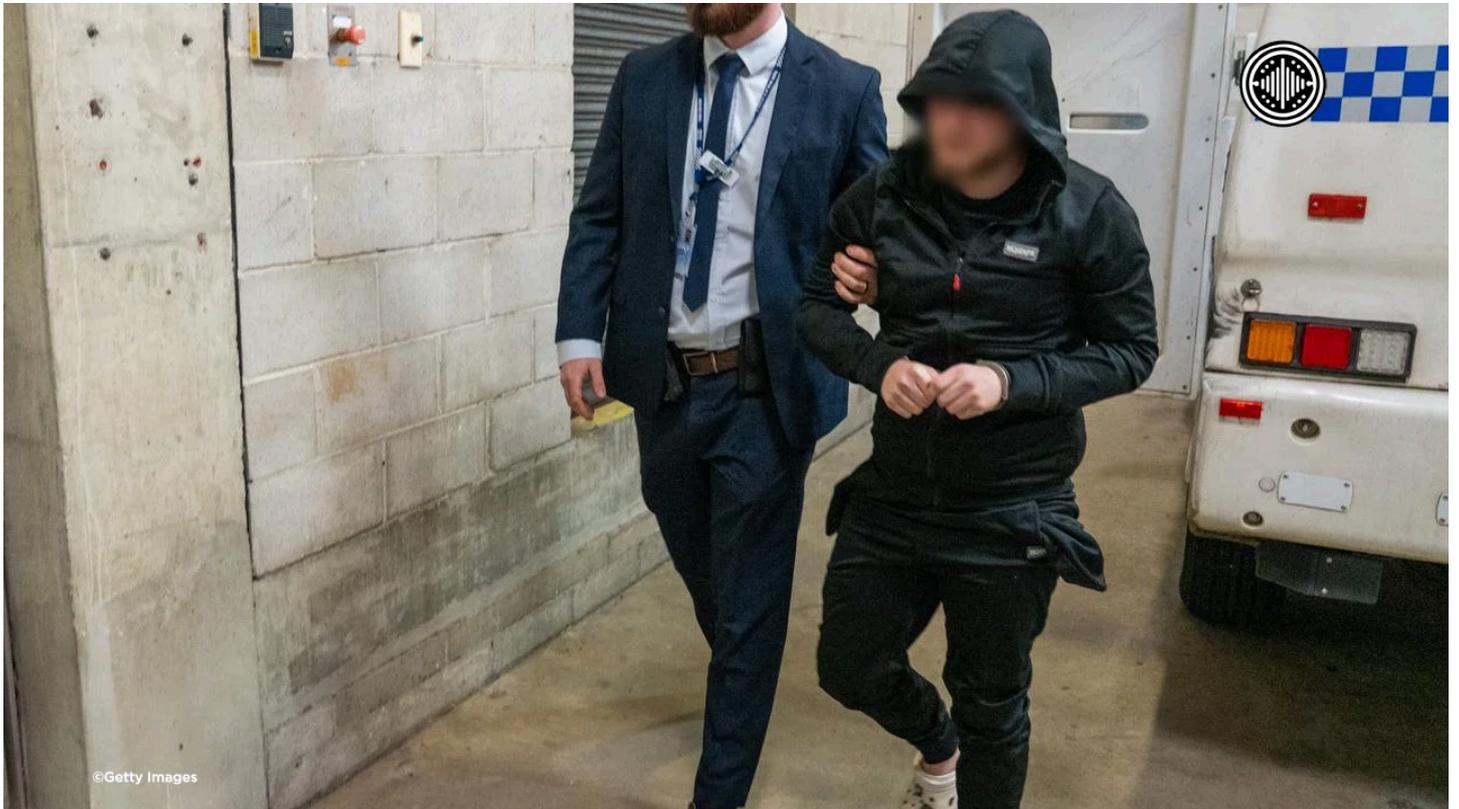
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## Teenagers Apprehended in South-West Sydney Car Theft Crackdown

August 8, 2025

– Categories: *Breaking News*



Seven teenagers have been arrested following a major police operation targeting a string of vehicle thefts across south-west Sydney. The coordinated effort, part of an ongoing investigation into organized crime, led to multiple arrests and the seizure of evidence believed to be linked to a growing car theft syndicate.

The operation, led by Strike Force Sweetenham, saw officers execute 10 simultaneous search warrants across several suburbs, including Prestons, Panania, Minto, Revesby, Glenfield, Lurnea, Hinchinbrook, Ingleburn, Fairfield and Badgerys Creek. Police recovered a range of items, including a gel blaster, large sums of cash, tracking devices and several mobile phones, all of which are undergoing forensic analysis.

Among those arrested was an 18-year-old man from Glenfield, who was taken to Campbelltown Police Station and charged with stealing a motor vehicle and active involvement in a criminal group. A 16-year-old from Prestons was also charged with multiple offences, including aggravated break and enter and several counts of car theft.

In a separate case, a 17-year-old boy from Minto faces seven charges of vehicle theft and is accused of directing the operations of a criminal group. Another 17-year-old, apprehended in Liverpool, was charged with vehicle theft and unlawful entry with intent to commit an indictable offense.

All four individuals were refused bail and appeared in Campbelltown Local Court on Thursday.

Three additional teenagers, an 18-year-old from Badgerys Creek, a 16-year-old from Hinchinbrook and a 15-year-old from Fairfield, were also arrested and are currently assisting police with their inquiries. Authorities have not ruled out further arrests as the investigation continues.

The arrests highlight the increasing scale and coordination of youth-led criminal groups involved in vehicle theft across Sydney's outer suburbs. Police say the operation marks a significant step forward in dismantling what they describe as an emerging network of young offenders engaging in high-risk, high-impact crimes.

Strike Force Sweetenham was established by the New South Wales (NSW) Police Force to combat organized car theft, particularly where minors are involved. Authorities have emphasized the importance of continued vigilance and cooperation from local communities in identifying and reporting suspicious activity.

Investigations remain active and police are urging anyone with information to come forward through Crime Stoppers at 1800 333 000. Callers can remain anonymous.

As law enforcement faces mounting challenges in curbing juvenile crime linked to organized groups, the latest arrests represent a firm response to a problem gaining momentum in suburban regions.