

WARNING: SMS SCAM

Coffs Car Market users have recently reported being contacted by SMS from overseas and local asking to make contact with a potential buyer via email. When they reply to the message, they are told that the buyer is overseas and will organise to have the car shipped via a shipping/escrow company. Some users have also reported receiving a fake invoice from PayPal or a financial institution and are asked to pay a fee via Western Union to have the funds released.

Please read the following to protect yourself from enquiries that could lead to an online scam, theft and misery;

- Take special precautions when the person contacting you about your car needs it urgently, won't inspect it before buying, or provides false details such as phone it's safe to assume that this is a scam.
- If you think the enquiry is suspicious, verify the person's home and work numbers by calling them.
- Do not accept payments by PayPal or Western Union because these are untraceable and preferred methods of payments by scammers (in all cases using stolen ATM or credit cards).
- Similarly, never pay by PayPal or Western Union.
- Never reveal your bank details or personal details such as your ID.
- Before inviting the buyer for a test drive, check if your insurance will cover such instances. Always check the buyer's ID and insurance details and ask them for a collateral, e.g. their car keys, mobile phone etc.

For more information go to www.scamwatch.gov.au