



Home site thefts rise

By **LUCY RICKARD**

BUILDING materials continue to be stolen from home sites around Ellenbrook, despite increased patrols and security in the area.

Statistics from the Housing Industry Association show that since January 1, more than \$19,000 in materials has been taken from building sites in Ellenbrook.

This put Ellenbrook third on a list of Perth suburbs, behind Baldivis and Harrisdale.

As well as the reported thefts the bill includes vandalism, which amounted to \$1000 on April 16 at Lot 902 Rosewood Heights.

On the same day, three other sites were targeted in Elmridge Parkway and Farmaner Parkway. Fascia and doors were stolen.

The HIA has a Name and Shame campaign

aimed at reducing building site theft. Site managers are encouraged to report all incidences.

Nikki Tucker, from the HIA, said it had expected an increase in theft because of the downturn in the economy.

She said workers were now doing jobs at weekends to make extra cash, and this accounted for some of the thefts. Commonly stolen items include whitegoods, tiles, tools and equipment.

Suburbs rounding out the top 10 hot spots for March were Bedforddale, Canning Vale, Seville Grove, Yanchep, Beeliar, Butler and Darch.

In the metropolitan area, more than \$140,000 worth of goods were stolen in 286 reported incidences.



BUILDING SITE CRIME				
Month	Stealing	Burglary	Damage	Total Value
November	15	2	2	\$4189
December	4	2	0	\$811
January	15	1	1	\$6477
February	16	1	2	\$4454
March	7	3	2	\$1870

Don Vacca, of Metrostyle with Name and Shame investigator Craig Pages-Oliver . Picture: Matthew Poon