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MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday January 20, 2010

New scam targeting Tasmanians selling goods through the classifieds or online

TASMANIANS looking to sell motor vehicles and other expensive items through the classifieds or the internet should be wary of a new scam, Liberal Senator Stephen Parry warned today.

Senator Parry said a constituent had brought to his attention an approach she received this week in regard to a car she had advertised for sale in a local newspaper and through its website.

“A woman in the United Kingdom sent a text message and then an email to the local woman, claiming to be interested in buying her unremarkable second-hand car,” he said.

“The supposed British woman said in her email that she would not be able to travel out for the inspection, but would need the Tasmanian woman’s ‘full contact address so that I can forward it to my shipping agent here in the United Kingdom who will be coming over there for the inspection and shipping’.

“The Tasmanian woman was suspicious and rightly raised the matter with my office.”

Senator Parry said he had spoken to Australian Federal Police who believe it is an example of a new scam targeting those trying to sell goods online or in the classifieds.

“Eventually the seller would be asked to pay upfront fees or charges, perhaps for transport, to allow the transaction to proceed,” he said.

“The scammer would promise to repay the ‘fees’ when the sale proceeds but, of course, once you have handed over the money you will hear nothing more.

“The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission’s SCAMWatch website has a recent warning on such scams, which it says have prompted numerous complaints.

“The strong advice is to never send money to anyone who you are not sure about and always seek confirmation that a company or individual is who they say they are.”

For more information about scams, visit www.scamwatch.gov.au

Ends

For further information contact **Anthony Haneveer – 0400 992 928**