



**National Motor Vehicle  
Theft Reduction Council**  
*driving down vehicle theft*

# Theft WATCH

National Motor Vehicle  
Theft Reduction Council –  
No.23 May 2007

## 2007 Off to a Strong Start

Table 1: Australia, theft snapshot, PLCs

### 12 months to March 2007

Number of thefts	62,973
% change from previous 12 months	-6.5
% of thefts recovered in year	77.1

### March 2007 Quarter

Number of thefts	15,247
% change from last quarter	-1.7
% changes from same quarter previous year	-6.7
% of thefts recovered in quarter	71
Theft rate per 1,000 population	0.74
Theft rate per 1,000 registrations	1.14
Total value of stolen PLC vehicles <sup>#</sup>	\$127m
Total value of unrecovered PLC vehicles	\$42m

Number of claims*	6,971
Average claim cost (\$)*	9,759
Median claim cost (\$)*	5,165
Total sum of claims	\$68m

### Top Short Term Use Targets, March Quarter

	Number Stolen
Holden Commodore VN, VL, VT, VS, VK, VP, VR	2,183
Ford Falcon EA, XF, EF, BA, AU	1,041
Ford Laser KE, KB, KC	453
Toyota Camry	315
Toyota Tarago YR22	269

### Top Profit-motivated Theft Targets, March Quarter

	Number Unrecovered
Holden Commodore VT, VX, VY, VZ	181
Ford Falcon AU, BA	80
Toyota Corolla ZZE122R	35
Toyota Landcruiser 100 series, 70 series	33
Ford Falcon Ute AU, BA	31

<sup>#</sup> Passenger and light commercial (PLC) vehicles accounted for 86 per cent of total thefts. Values calculated using the resources of Glass's Information Services.

\* Excluding claims with \$0 cost. There were 341 claims with a cost equal to zero.

Australia experienced its ninth consecutive quarterly reduction in passenger/light commercial (PLC) thefts, with numbers dropping by 258 to a total of 15,247 thefts for the March quarter. The 12 month figure also shows a strong decline, with PLC thefts down 4,409 to a total of 62,973. This represents a reduction of 6.5 per cent.

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Northern Territory (NT), and Western Australia all experienced increases in PLC thefts as compared to the previous 12 months, ranging from 7 per cent to 26 per cent<sup>1</sup>. However all other states saw reduced thefts ranging from 4 per cent to 23 per cent, with Queensland, Tasmania, and Victoria having performed particularly well.

The total value of stolen PLC vehicles stayed constant at \$127 million in the March 2007 quarter, with the total value of unrecovered PLCs up slightly to \$42 million.

Motorcycle theft dropped again slightly by 1.8 per cent as compared to the previous quarter, however the rolling 12 month figure still represents a 3.1 per cent rise for the year. The recovery rate for motorcycles remains low at around 32 per cent for the 12 months to March 2007.

1. It should be noted that the smaller states and territories are prone to frequent fluctuations (both up and down) because of their relatively low base position.

Figure 1: Passenger/light commercial vehicles stolen and not recovered by month, January 2000 – March 2007

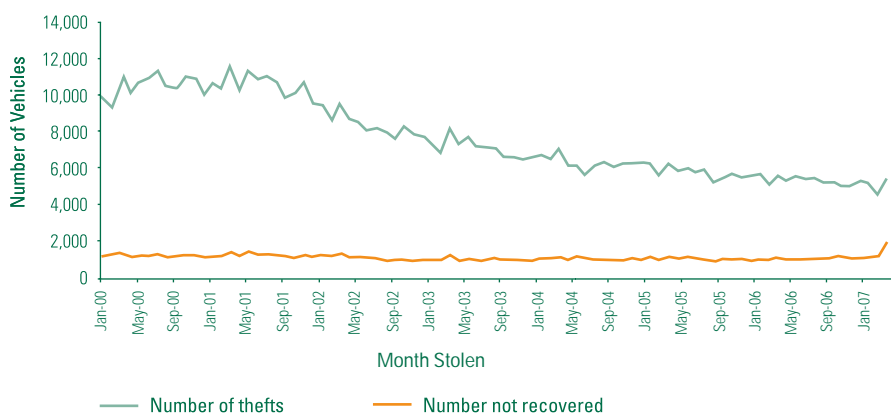


Table 2: Australia, thefts and recoveries by vehicle type, January – March 2007

Vehicle type	Number of thefts	Number not recovered	% Recovered
Passenger/light commercial	15,247	4,418	71.0
Motorcycles	1,631	1,143	29.9
Heavy/other vehicles	783	302	71.0
Unknown	151	95	37.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,812</b>	<b>5,958</b>	<b>66.6</b>



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The NMVTRC is an initiative of all Australian Governments and the Insurance Industry

Table 3: Australia, state and territory breakdown, PLCs

	Number of thefts, March quarter	Change in theft numbers from last quarter	Number of thefts not recovered in the quarter	% of thefts recovered in the quarter	Theft rate per 1,000 population, March quarter	Theft rate per 1,000 registrations, March quarter	Thefts for 12 months to March 2007	Change in theft numbers from last 12 months
ACT	311	-205	74	76.2	0.94	1.43	1,899	131
NSW	5,843	165	2,127	63.6	0.85	1.51	23,929	-1,037
NT	179	34	24	86.6	0.86	1.73	665	135
QLD	2,047	37	513	74.9	0.50	0.73	8,492	-1,078
SA	1,660	-122	245	85.2	1.07	1.60	6,923	-380
TAS	357	-35	30	91.6	0.73	0.97	1,665	-484
VIC	3,442	-148	957	72.2	0.67	0.97	13,913	-2,238
WA*	1,408	16	448	68.2	0.68	1.01	5,487	542
Australia	15,247	-258	4,418	71.0	0.74	1.14	62,973	-4,409

\* The Western Australian unrecovered rate is currently understated and may be adjusted at a later date as a result of Western Australia Police data management procedures.

Table 4: Australia, theft snapshot, motorcycles

12 months to March 2007	March 2007 Quarter
Number of thefts	6,640
% change from previous 12 months	3.1
% of thefts recovered in year	32
	Number of thefts
	1,631
	% change from last quarter
	-1.8
	% change from same quarter last previous year
	3.5
	% of thefts recovered in quarter
	30
	Theft rate per 1,000 registrations*
	3.09

\* Must be regarded with caution as a large and unknown proportion of motorbikes are not registered.

## Bankstown Stripped Vehicles Project

Most commentators are of the view that stealing vehicles for parts is now a major problem for vehicle theft strategists following on from reforms that have made re-birthing entire vehicles significantly more difficult. With this in mind the NMVTRC has commenced work with the New South Wales Police Force and Insurance Australia Group (IAG) to more closely examine and document all recovered strips in Bankstown LGA, a major hotspot for stripped vehicles.

All vehicles recovered in Bankstown are currently being photographed to an agreed template. As can be seen from the sample images (right), many vehicles are recovered with extensive stripping,

the photographs of which really illustrate the severity of the problem.

Whilst still in the early days of the project, initial analysis of the volume of recovered vehicles in Bankstown has shown a slightly lower than average level. Keeping in mind that this may be related to

seasonal variations, the project appears to already have had an effect on thefts in the area.

The NMVTRC is also using the results of this project to assess the accuracy with which traditional police reports reflect the condition of recovered vehicles.



National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council Inc

50-52 Howard Street  
North Melbourne Victoria 3051  
Australia

Telephone (03) 9348 9600  
Facsimile (03) 9348 9988  
Email info@carsafe.com.au

The NMVTRC acknowledges all police services, registration authorities, participating insurers, the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, Glass's Information Services and Insurance Australia Group for their supply of the data. Theft incident data may be subject to later revision by the data provider.

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