



National Motor Vehicle
Theft Reduction Council
driving down vehicle theft

Theft WATCH

National Motor Vehicle
Theft Reduction Council –
No.24 September 2007

Larger States Drive Further Theft Decrease

Table 1: Australia, theft snapshot, PLCs

12 months to June 2007	
Number of thefts	61,933
% change from previous 12 months	-6.4
% of thefts recovered in year	77.6
June 2007 Quarter	
Number of thefts	15,132
% change from last quarter	-1.1
% change from same quarter previous year	-7
% of thefts recovered in quarter	71.4
Theft rate per 1,000 population	0.73
Theft rate per 1,000 registrations	1.14
Total value of stolen PLC vehicles [#]	\$121m
Total value of unrecovered PLC vehicles	\$40m
Number of claims*	6,497
Average claim cost (\$)*	10,125
Median claim cost (\$)*	5,539
Total sum of claims	\$66m

Top Short Term Use Targets, June Quarter

	Number Stolen
Holden Commodore VN, VL, VT, VP, VS, VK, VR	2,150
Ford Falcon EA, XF	701
Toyota Camry SV22, SV21	380
Hyundai Excel X3	291
Toyota Tarago YR22	280

Top Profit-motivated Theft Targets, June Quarter

	Number Unrecovered
Holden Commodore VT, VY, VX, VZ	180
Ford Falcon AU, BA	60
Toyota Landcruiser 70 series, 100 series	37
Toyota Corolla ZZE122R	36
Holden Astra TS	23

[#] 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 310 claims with a cost equal to zero.

Note: The data for Queensland is for the three month period from 19 March 2007 – 17 June 2007 for the quarter, and for the 12 month period from 18 June 2006 to 17 June 2007 for the year.

Passenger/light commercial (PLC) thefts continue to fall across the nation as our larger states drive numbers down even further in 2006/07, with a total of 61,933¹ thefts bringing us another 6.4 per cent down on 2005/06. Recoveries remain stable at around 78 per cent for the 2006/07 financial year.

New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania all performed well in 2006/07, with reductions in thefts ranging from 6 per cent to 29 per cent – a total of 4,795 fewer thefts between them. The Northern Territory, ACT, South Australia and Western Australia experienced minor increases of between two and 11 per cent, however these increases only amounted to 544 additional thefts for the year².

Motorcycle theft increased by just over 1 per cent for the June quarter, with the rolling 12 month figure still indicating that this type of vehicle theft continues to grow. Recoveries remain low at 29 per cent for the quarter, and only 33 per cent for the financial year.

The total value of stolen PLCs was \$121 million for the period, down \$6 million from the March quarter. \$2 million of this reduction related to unrecovered PLCs, which totaled \$40 million.

1. Figures for Queensland are for the 12 month period from 18 June 2006 to 17 June 2007 due to unavailability of data at this time.
2. 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 – May 2007

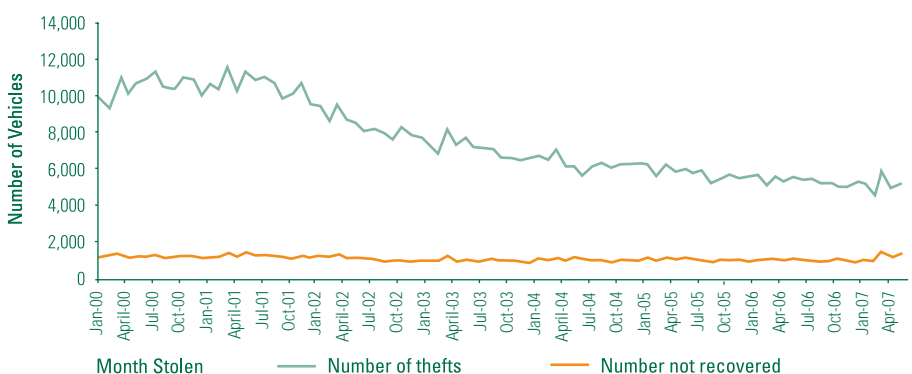


Table 2: Australia, thefts and recoveries by vehicle type, April – June 2007

Vehicle type	Number of thefts	Number not recovered	% Recovered
Passenger/light commercial	15,132	4,335	71.4
Motorcycles	1,677	1,194	28.8
Heavy/other vehicles	668	241	63.9
Unknown	127	77	39.4
Total	17,604	5,847	66.8

Note: The data for Queensland is for the three month period from 19 March 2007 – 17 June 2007.



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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, June 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, June quarter	Theft rate per 1,000 registrations, June quarter	Thefts for 12 months to June 2007	Change in theft numbers from last 12 months
ACT	364	50	91	75.0	1.08	1.68	1,817	47
NSW	5,899	28	2,109	64.2	0.86	1.52	23,370	-1,556
NT	183	3	24	86.9	0.86	1.77	663	66
QLD	2,018	-33	494	75.5	0.49	0.72	8,330	-882
SA	1,938	274	342	82.4	1.23	1.87	7,225	310
TAS	349	-9	28	92.0	0.71	0.94	1,499	-619
VIC	3,263	-182	967	70.4	0.63	0.92	13,742	-1,738
WA	1,118	-292	280	75.0	0.54	0.80	5,287	121
Australia	15,132	-161	4,335	71.4	0.73	1.14	61,933	-4,251

Note: The data for Queensland is for the three month period from 19 March 2007 – 17 June 2007 for the quarter, and for the 12 month period from 18 June 2006 to 17 June 2007 for the year.

Table 4: Australia, theft snapshot, motorcycles

June 2007 quarter	12 months to June 2007		
Number of thefts	1,677	Number of thefts	6,737
% change from last quarter	1.1	% change from previous 12 months	0.6
% change from same quarter previous year	-1.0	% of thefts recovered in year	33.4
% of thefts recovered in quarter	28.8		
Theft rate per 1,000 registrations*	3.18		

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

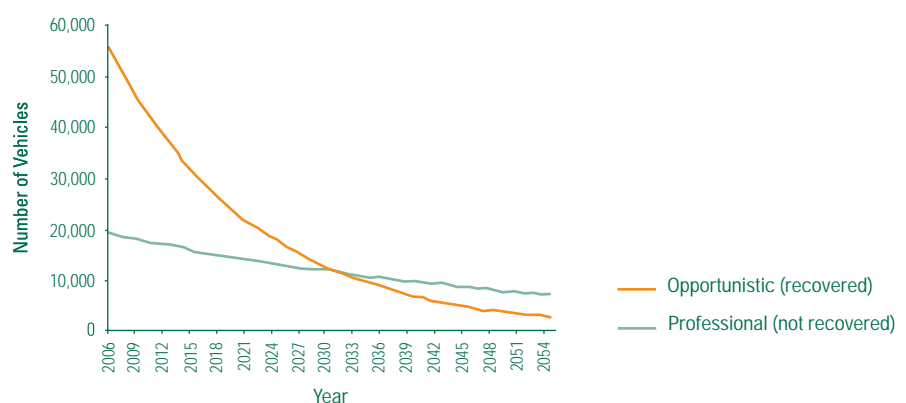
Note: The data for Queensland is for the three month period from 19 March 2007 – 17 June 2007.

Vision 10,303 – The Challenge for the Future

Since reaching a peak of over 139,000 thefts in 2000/01, Australia has experienced a continuous and dramatic decrease in numbers of over 45 per cent. However, in order to realise our vision of achieving the lowest rate of vehicle theft in the developed world in the foreseeable future, concerted efforts from industry and stakeholders need to be boosted.

Figure 2 tracks Australia's vehicle theft progress into the future if we continue at about half the rate of reduction that we have so far experienced, indicating that we will not meet our goal of 10,303 thefts per annum until half way through this century unless some groundbreaking work is done. The collective challenge for the NMVTRC and its stakeholders is to determine what strategies will deliver this vision and bring Australia's vehicle theft problem to an end.

Figure 2: Forecast time to reach target volume of 10,303 thefts



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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