



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

# Theft WATCH

National Motor Vehicle  
Theft Reduction Council –  
No.25 November 2007

## Joint Efforts Bring us Closer to 60,000

Table 1: Australia, theft snapshot, PLCs

12 months to September 2007 <sup>^</sup>	
Number of thefts	60,223
% change from previous 12 months	-8.1
% of thefts recovered in year	76.8
September 2007 quarter <sup>^</sup>	
Number of thefts	14,208
% change from last quarter	-6.5
% change from same quarter previous year	-11.1
% of thefts recovered in quarter	70.4
Theft rate per 1,000 population	0.73
Theft rate per 1,000 registrations	1.05
Total value of stolen PLC vehicles (excl. QLD) <sup>#</sup>	\$102m
Total value of unrecovered PLC vehicles (excl. QLD)	\$34m
Number of claims*	6,129
Average claim cost (\$)*	9,735
Median claim cost (\$)*	5,328
Total sum of claims	\$60m

Top short term use targets, September quarter  
(excluding QLD)

	Number Stolen
Holden Commodore VN, VL, VT, VP, VK, VS, VR, VX	1,783
Ford Falcon EA, XF, AU, BA	778
Ford Laser KE, KC, KB	289
Toyota Camry SV21, SV22	285
Hyundai Excel X3	235

Top profit-motivated theft targets, September quarter  
(excluding QLD)

	Number Unrecovered
Holden Commodore VT, VX, VY, VZ	136
Ford Falcon AU, BA, EL	74
Holden Commodore Ute VU, VS, VY	35
Toyota Corolla ZZE122R	34
Mitsubishi Lancer CE	28

<sup>^</sup> The data for Queensland for the current quarter is an estimate, based on trend data for the past 10 quarters. The data for Queensland for the previous quarter is for the three month period from 19 March 2007 – 17 June 2007.

<sup>#</sup> Passenger and light commercial (PLC) vehicles accounted for 85 per cent of total thefts. Values calculated using the resources of Glass's Information Services.

\* Excluding claims with \$0 cost. There were 282 claims with a cost equal to zero.

With another 8 per cent decrease across Australia, passenger/light commercial (PLC) thefts are now closing in on the 60,000 mark, with all states and territories performing exceptionally in the year to September 2007. In a record performance 12 month period, almost all jurisdictions experienced decreases of varying proportions, with recoveries remaining stable at 77 per cent for the year. Tasmania in particular continues its outstanding performance with a further 30 per cent decrease

in numbers. The Northern Territory, the only jurisdiction to record an increase, had just one additional theft for the period.

Motorcycle theft was also down slightly, with just under a per cent decrease from the previous quarter, and a 0.4 per cent decrease from the previous 12 months. The proportion of motorcycles recovered is still low, at 29 per cent for the quarter and 33 per cent for the 12 month period.

Figure 1: Passenger/light commercial vehicles stolen and not recovered by quarter, January 2000 – September 2007<sup>^</sup>

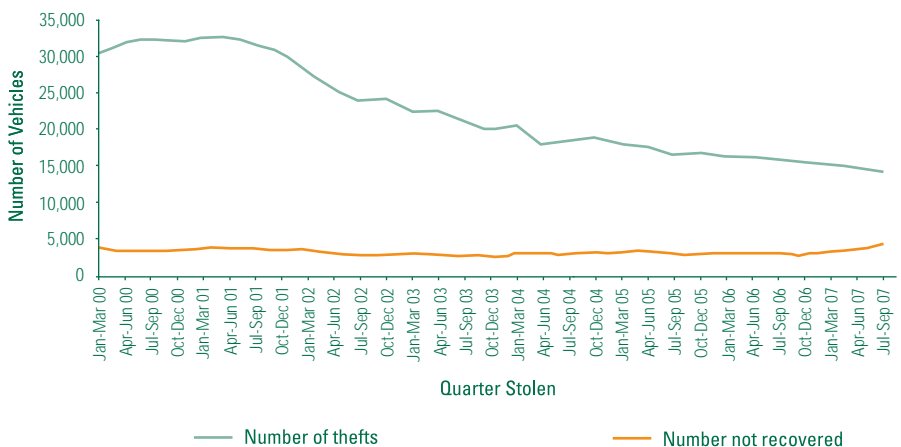


Table 2: Australia, thefts and recoveries by vehicle type, July – September 2007<sup>^</sup>

Vehicle type	Number of thefts	Number not recovered	% Recovered
Passenger/light commercial	14,208	4,200	70.4
Motorcycles	1,702	1,213	28.7
Heavy/other vehicles/unknown	795	300	62.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,705</b>	<b>5,713</b>	<b>65.8</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, September 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, September quarter	Theft rate per 1,000 registrations, September quarter	Thefts for 12 months to September 2007	Change in theft numbers from last 12 months
ACT	407	42	99	75.7	1.20	1.85	1,603	-269
NSW	5,520	-418	2,069	62.5	0.80	1.41	23,007	-1,850
NT	107	-79	17	84.1	0.50	1.02	619	1
QLD <sup>^</sup>	1,924	-94	455	76.4	0.46	0.67	8,003	-1,022
SA	1,532	-409	390	74.5	0.97	1.46	6,922	-4
TAS	319	-34	25	92.2	0.65	0.86	1,423	-612
VIC	3,097	-170	860	72.2	0.60	0.87	13,399	-1,464
WA	1,302	182	285	78.1	0.62	0.92	5,247	-86
Australia	14,208	-980	4,200	70.4	0.73	1.05	60,223	-5,306

<sup>^</sup> The data for Queensland for the current quarter is an estimate, based on trend data for the past 10 quarters. The data for Queensland for the previous quarter is for the three month period from 19 March 2007 – 17th June 2007.

Table 4: Australia, theft snapshot, motorcycles<sup>^</sup>

September 2007 quarter		12 months to September 2007	
Number of thefts	1,702	Number of thefts	6,737
% change from last quarter	0.8	% change from previous 12 months	-1.4
% change from same quarter previous year	-1.0	% of thefts recovered in year	33.0
% of thefts recovered in quarter	28.7		
Theft rate per 1,000 registrations*	3.12		

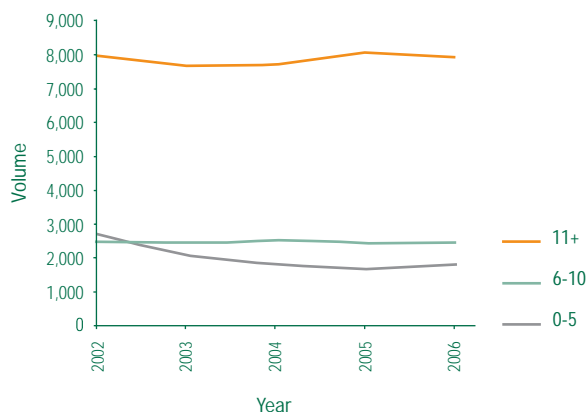
\* Must be regarded with caution as a large and unknown proportion of motorbikes are not registered.

<sup>^</sup> The data for Queensland for the current quarter is an estimate, based on trend data for the past 10 quarters. The data for Queensland for the previous quarter is for the three month period from 19 March 2007 – 17th June 2007.

## Missing Vehicles Stable Across All Ages

Unrecovered PLCs have remained stable in the context of ever decreasing thefts over the last six years, and interestingly the breakdown of missing vehicles by age shows that these levels are stable across all age categories. Despite the 44 per cent drop in recovered PLCs aged 11 or more years, these older vehicles still make up the highest proportion of missing vehicles. Pleasingly, there has been no apparent displacement to other age categories, and newer vehicles (aged 0-5 years) were steadily decreasing up until a slight rise in 2006. The middle range vehicles have also maintained a level profile. These trends are subject to close monitoring.

Figure 2: Volume of unrecovered PLCs by age category, Australia, 2002-2006



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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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