



National Motor Vehicle
Theft Reduction Council
driving down vehicle theft

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In this issue

Further theft reductions as smaller jurisdictions excel in 2007

State and territory round-up 2007

Our new look newsletters

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

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NMVTRC newsletters are reproduced on the CAR-SAFE website at www.carsafe.com.au and are also available electronically. To join our email list contact info@carsafe.com.au



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CARS

comprehensive auto-theft research system

theft watch

Further theft reductions as smaller jurisdictions excel in 2007

The number of passenger/light commercial (PLC) thefts continued to steadily decline in 2007, ensuring another successful year in vehicle theft reform. Preliminary data estimates a total of 59,410¹ PLC thefts were recorded for the year and both large and small jurisdictions contributed to the downward trend, with 4,601 fewer thefts recorded compared to the previous 12 months. This brings the total number of PLC thefts down 8 per cent for the 2007 calendar year. The recovery rate for PLCs remained relatively stable at 76 per cent, while theft rate per 1,000 registrations and 1,000 population decreased slightly from 2006, at 4.39 and 2.83 respectively².

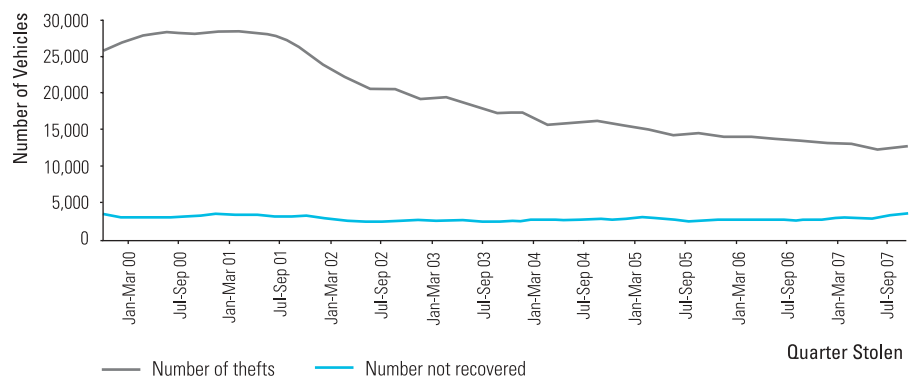
All states performed well throughout the year with South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, and Western Australia recording reductions in thefts between 4 and 6 per cent. The Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania showed marked reductions in thefts from the previous 12 months, of 19 and 28 per cent respectively. The Northern Territory experienced a minor increase of 44 thefts. However, it should be noted that smaller states and territories are prone to frequent fluctuations (both up and down) because of their relatively low base position. Considering previous performance, Queensland is expected to continue the downward trend in motor vehicle theft.

The number of secure cars in Australia continues to steadily rise, with just over half of the car fleet fitted with an Australian-Standards Equivalent (ASE) engine immobiliser by the end of 2007. Of the PLCs stolen last year, 69 per cent were not fitted with an ASE immobiliser, highlighting the continued importance of these security measures. Western Australia had the highest immobilised rate in 2007 of 81 per cent, a testament to the state's mandatory immobilisation scheme, which commenced operation in 1999.

Motorcycle theft increased by just over 3 per cent from the previous year. The recovery rate remains consistently low, with only around 33 per cent of stolen bikes recovered in the year³.

1. Due to technical issues confirmed data for Queensland was not available at the time of publishing. Some estimates based on long term trends in the state have therefore been made to derive a national estimate for the year. When the final Queensland data set is received (which is expected in late February) a revised national figure will be posted as an update on the NMVTRC website (www.carsafe.com.au).
2. Recovery rate, theft per 1,000 registrations and 1,000 population exclude Queensland due to unavailability of data at this time.
3. Motorcycle theft rates exclude Queensland data.

Figure 1: Australia (excluding Queensland) – number of passenger/light commercial vehicle thefts recorded by quarter, January 2000 – December 2007



State and territory round-up 2007

South Australia

PLC thefts	6,498
Change from 2006	-388 or -6%
Recovered	84%
Rate per 1,000 population	4.1
Rate per 1,000 registrations	6.19
Thefts without an immobiliser	80%
Immobilised fleet	47%

Motorcycle thefts	611
Change from 2006	+104
Recovered	32%

- South Australia continued its substantial contribution to the reduction of PLC theft numbers in Australia.
- A high recovery rate – higher than the national average of 76 per cent – highlighting the prominence of theft for short term use.
- High theft rate of non-immobilised vehicles – further indicates a high level of stolen vehicles for short term use.

Victoria

PLC thefts	13,363
Change from 2006	-928 or -6%
Recovered	77%
Rate per 1,000 population	2.57
Rate per 1,000 registrations	3.73
Thefts without an immobiliser	79%
Immobilised fleet	52%

Motorcycle thefts	1,402
Change from 2006	+115
Recovered	20%

- Victoria experienced a substantial decrease from 2006 in PLC theft of 928 vehicles.
- The second largest contributor to the nation's performance in terms of actual theft numbers.

Tasmania

PLC thefts	1,290
Change from 2006	-505 or -28%
Recovered	93%
Rate per 1,000 population	2.61
Rate per 1,000 registrations	3.49
Thefts without an immobiliser	89%
Immobilised fleet	41%

Motorcycle thefts	70
Change from 2006	-13
Recovered	50%

- Tasmania experienced the highest percentage decrease of thefts for the nation – a commendable state effort.
- Third greatest reduction in thefts in terms of actual theft numbers.
- Maintained their high recovery rate with 93 per cent recovered – indicates high level of theft for short term use.
- Lowest motorcycle theft numbers and highest recovery rate – considerably higher than the national average of 33 per cent.

Australian Capital Territory

PLC thefts	1,618
Change from 2006	-375 or -19%
Recovered	77%
Rate per 1,000 population	4.76
Rate per 1,000 registrations	7.36
Thefts without an immobiliser	80%
Immobilised fleet	56%

Motorcycle thefts	95
Change from 2006	+32
Recovered	42%

- The Australian Capital Territory experienced some increases this year across the last three quarters, however the overall number of thefts for 2007 was considerably lower than for the previous 12 months.
- Highest rate of theft per registrations compared with other jurisdictions – higher than the national average of 4.39.

Western Australia

PLC thefts	5,198
Change from 2006	-243 or -5%
Recovered	79%
Rate per 1,000 population	2.47
Rate per 1,000 registrations	3.66
Thefts without an immobiliser	54%
Immobilised fleet	81%

Motorcycle thefts	1,199
Change from 2006	-256
Recovered	46%

- PLC thefts reduced by 243 in Western Australia – a notable success compared with an increase last year.
- Highest proportion of the car fleet fitted with an ASE immobiliser – a testament to the state's rapid penetration of immobilisers since 1999.
- High number of motorcycles stolen – 23 per cent of all vehicles stolen – however this has decreased from the previous 12 month period.

Queensland

- Due to technical issues confirmed data for Queensland was not available at the time of publishing. When the final Queensland data set is received (which is expected in late February) a revised national figure will be posted as an update on the NIMVTRC website (www.carsafe.com.au).

New South Wales

PLC thefts	22,776
Change from 2006	-1473 or -6%
Recovered	70%
Rate per 1,000 population	3.31
Rate per 1,000 registrations	5.82
Thefts without an immobiliser	63%
Immobilised fleet	57%

Motorcycle thefts	2,255
Change from 2006	+77
Recovered	32%

- Continuing the trend of previous years, New South Wales again had the largest reduction in actual theft numbers.
- Accounts for almost half of the nation's overall PLC theft reductions for 2007.
- Lowest recovery rate and the third highest thefts per registration – indicating a greater incidence of professional theft compared with other jurisdictions.

Northern Territory

PLC thefts	665
Change from 2006	+44
Recovered	88%
Rate per 1,000 population	3.09
Rate per 1,000 registrations	6.37
Thefts without an immobiliser	63%
Immobilised fleet	55%

Motorcycle thefts	147
Change from 2006	+19
Recovered	44%

- Northern Territory experienced a small increase of 44 thefts from previous 12 months, compared to a substantial reduction in the previous 12 months.
- Because of the low base rate of theft, the Territory is prone to fluctuations (both up and down) in theft numbers.
- Like Tasmania and South Australia, the high recovery rate indicates low levels of profit-motivated theft.
- High incidence of motorcycle theft – makes up 22 per cent of overall motor vehicle theft in the Northern Territory.

Our new look newsletters

You will have noticed *Theft Watch* has a fresh new look this edition aimed at further aiding readability and communication. A complementary

new design has also been developed for the upcoming edition of *Theft Torque* due out next month. We hope you like the new format.