



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

# Theft TORQUE

National Motor Vehicle  
Theft Reduction Council –  
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## Operation Bounce Back Continues to Deliver in Third Year



*Alderman Adriana Taylor and Ross Park from Glenorchy City Council (Tasmania) accept the LGAT Award for Excellence in Invigorating Communities for Glenorchy's Operation Bounce Back program.*

We have now wrapped up a third successful year of *Operation Bounce Back* (OBB), and are beginning plans for next year's round of grants. With grants completed in all states and territories, OBB once again proved its worth in communities across the country. Nineteen grants were distributed this year, with a combination of new and follow up participants in the 2006/07 program.

Findings from the 2006/07 OBB program are outlined below. For a summary of program highlights, see the 2007 Annual Report, to be released at the end of October.

Grant recipients participating for a second and third year were clearly able to apply their learnings and experience from previous years to maximise the benefit of the program; for example – by

distributing information packs to ensure educational material was taken up or by running competitions to legitimise the offer of a free immobiliser. Grant recipients went to great lengths to ensure that the voucher expiry dates were kept to, and as a result more than 1,100 installations had been completed by September.

Vehicle security messages were spread through the distribution of educational materials to a wide range of audiences, with translated brochures extensively used in a number of jurisdictions. Additionally, the key messages of OBB will continue to resonate with local communities through the use of ongoing and in some cases permanent mediums such as television advertising and carpark signage.

# Operation Bounce Back Continues to Deliver in Third Year continued



Speakers and guests at Liverpool City Council's Community Safety and Crime Prevention seminar, organised as part of Operation Bounce Back.

Partnerships were created and strengthened between local governments, police, local installers, and other community organisations.

OBB again received extensive media coverage as well as recognition with wider audiences, winning major awards from organisations such as the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI) and the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT).

Overall, OBB is running very smoothly in its third year and with grant recipients learning to identify which activities are most effective, the program continues to improve. The impact on theft numbers in those areas that have received follow up grants is an encouraging indication of the program's impact on local communities.

The table below provides an overview of older passenger/light commercial theft numbers over the past two years for select LGAs compared with their state average.

Older passenger/light commercial theft numbers over the past two years for select LGAs compared with their state average

LGA	Thefts 2005/06	Thefts 2006/07	Local % Change	State % Change
Canterbury (NSW)	644	562	-12.7	-7.3
Campbelltown (NSW)	686	573	-16.5	-7.3
Logan (QLD)	564	458	-18.8	-15.7
Ipswich (QLD)	367	262	-28.6	-15.7
Canning (WA)	172	164	-4.7	+1.2
Joondalup (WA)	179	127	-29.1	+1.2
Stirling (WA)	331	330	-0.3	+1.2
Clarence (TAS)	487	193	-60.4	-29.7
Darebin (VIC)	763	635	-16.8	-10.6

## Secure By Design a Hit with the Media

*Secure By Design* has now launched in five capital cities across Australia, with only Adelaide, Canberra and Sydney left to visit. With an excellent media and stakeholder presence at each event, *Secure By Design* has now generated 18 print articles in 16 major metropolitan daily newspapers across Australia. Additionally, radio and television coverage has also been excellent, with significant coverage in prime time news.

This extensive media coverage will help to raise the profile of secure design in the minds of consumers and provide recognition for those manufacturers that are leading the way.

Keep an eye out for further coverage of the South Australia, Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales launches in the second half of 2007.



WA's Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon. John Kobelke MLA, speaks to media at the Perth *Secure By Design* launch.

# Vision 10,303 – Strategic Plan 2007

The NMVTRC's 2007 Strategic Plan is now available from our website, and hard copies can be requested by contacting us at [info@carsafe.com.au](mailto:info@carsafe.com.au). To provide an overview of our work plan for 2007/08, we have composed a summary version of the report for this edition of Theft Torque.

The NMVTRC's Strategic Plan is reviewed annually, with each revised plan reflecting a review of our progress so far whilst encompassing the changing priorities and operating environments for all our stakeholders. The Plan is developed following a series of stakeholder workshops which work towards a shared vision for priorities and resource allocation.

The 2007 Strategic Plan maintained focus on issues from previous years, including:

- applying a forensic approach to analysing vehicle theft data;
- promoting state of the art vehicle identification;
- promoting good practice amongst parts recyclers;
- monitoring registration and vehicle inspection practices; and
- delivering quality public education resources.

Additionally, this year's Plan also places emphasis on:

- analysing end of life vehicle recycling processes to the unauthorised disposal of stolen vehicles;
- considering limiting access to damaged vehicle auctions to accredited persons; and
- encouraging innovation in local police responses.

Australia has pleasingly again reached new lows with respect to theft numbers and rates, with total thefts having now declined by over 45 per cent since numbers peaked in 2001. This performance has enabled Australia to improve its 'world ranking' on the vehicle theft 'league table' of developed nations. The reduction in theft numbers for the year has saved the community an estimated \$24 million to \$46 million<sup>1</sup>.

The application of a more forensic approach to analysing data has indicated that countermeasures aimed at making life difficult for organised criminals have had a significant impact, however the higher number of older vehicles that are not recovered suggests that the demand for parts to service older cars is growing.

In the context of the NMVTRC's new perception of vehicle theft as occurring within a continuum of offending, the relatively constant non-recovery



NMVTRC Strategic Plan 2007.

rate (traditionally a measure of organised criminal activity) has posed some questions for experts in theft reform. With respect to the ultimate fate of these missing vehicles, it has been suggested that there has been higher than estimated activity in older re-birthing and parts stripping, and the non-sanctioned pick up and disposal of abandoned vehicles.

In an environment of substantial progress in reducing theft numbers, the NMVTRC has predicted that the volume of theft will continue to fall but at a slower rate. External factors aside, it is expected that

unless major changes are made in the coming years, it will take us until the year 2054 to reach our goal of 10,303 vehicle thefts annually – a volume that would place us at the top of the league table of developed nations.

For details of the NMVTRC's work program for the 2007/08 financial year, please refer to the full Strategic Plan.

1. Based on independent economic analysis conducted by MM Starrs Pty Ltd for the NMVTRC (September 2005).

# Melbourne International Vehicle Crime Conference – Well Received by Delegates

Feedback from participants of the Melbourne International Vehicle Crime Conference, co-hosted by the NMVTRC and Victoria Police, was positive and very informative, with all comments and suggestions taken very seriously in consideration for future events. A round up of some of the general responses are included below.

All surveyed delegates rated the organisation of the conference as good, very good, or excellent, with 87 per cent giving the same ratings for the program content. Three quarters of respondents indicated that their needs and expectations were met, and nine out of 10 indicated that they would be interested in attending another vehicle crime conference in the future. Eighty nine per cent agreed that attending the conference had been worthwhile.

Almost eight in 10 respondents felt the conference provided them with practical ideas and strategies that they could apply in their own roles, and the majority of surveyed delegates felt that *Secure By Design* was an appropriate and worthwhile inclusion in the conference, with specific comments indicating that the media coverage was beneficial to raising the profile of the overall event.



NMVTRC Chairman David Morgan addresses delegates at the Melbourne International Vehicle Crime Conference.

## Odd Spot – Runaway Emu Sparks Police Chase

Authorities were left baffled after reports were made of a runaway emu in the German town of Grenzach-Wyhlen, near the Swiss border. There was no indication of where the Australian native bird had escaped from, as local zoos and bird farms had not reported any missing animals.

The emu bolted when confronted by police, sparking a police chase by German as well as Swiss authorities. Patrol cars chased the bird for hours, but could not keep up with the speedy animal as it cunningly ducked in and out of alleyways that were too small for the vehicles. Police eventually

resorted to setting up road blocks to attempt to control the situation once the bird reached dangerous speeds of up to 50kph, while attempts to sedate the animal proved fruitless. Sadly, local hunters were forced to shoot the uncontrollable bird.

*Source: The Age, 25 May 2007.*



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