Reductions in Vehicle Theft in NSW During the Past Decade

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Presentation Overview

- The NMVTRC and its strategic approach to reducing vehicle theft
- An overview of vehicle theft trends in NSW
- Factors impacting vehicle theft in NSW
- The challenges ahead
Why a National Strategy for Vehicle Theft?

- Car theft was increasing exponentially during the 1990’s.
- Car thieves exploited state and territory borders.
- Of all crimes, car theft was most open to a crime prevention response.
- An accident of timing and political circumstance.
The NMVTRC Partner Organisations

The NMVTRC’s key partners are:

- Australian governments and Police Services via MCPEMP
- The insurance industry via the ICA
- State and territory registration authorities via AustRoads
- Motor trades via the Motor Trades Association
- Motor manufacturers and importers via the FCAI
- Motorist associations via the Australian Automobile Association
The NMVTRC’s Strategic Approach

The crime prevention challenge

The community tolerates manageable levels of property crime in return for going about its business with a minimum level of interference.
NMVTRC Strategic Approach is based on the Vehicle Lifecycle

At Manufacture
- Active and passive security, vehicle ID.

Pre-purchase
- Objective product and consumer information

End-of-life
- Secure scrappage
- Environmental management
- De-registration

In-service
- Aware motorists
- After market systems
- Registration processes
- Industry practices
- Compliance & Enforcement
- Youth interventions
NMVTRC Categories of Car Crime

Short Term Theft

Defined as any theft where the vehicle is stolen for a purpose rather than its value. (Recovered vehicle)

Profit Motivated Theft

Defined as any theft where the vehicle is stolen for its value as either a whole vehicle or separated parts. (Unrecovered)
## Changes in NSW Short term Theft
(Passenger and Light Commercial Vehicles)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>Rest of Australia</th>
<th>Thefts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>42,389</td>
<td>70,349</td>
<td>38% of all thefts from 30% of national fleet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>11,571</td>
<td>23,612</td>
<td>33% of all thefts from 29% of national fleet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Reduction in Short Term Theft in NSW - 73%**
## Changes in NSW Profit Motivated Theft
(Passenger and Light Commercial Vehicles)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>Rest of Australia</th>
<th>Thefts</th>
<th>Reduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>6,139</td>
<td>8,853</td>
<td>41% of all thefts from 30% of national fleet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5,615</td>
<td>6,182</td>
<td>48% of all thefts from 29% of national fleet</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Reduction in Profit Motivated theft in NSW - 9%
Influences on the decline in short term theft

- Improved vehicle technology – Immobilisation
- Improved police responses
- Improved youth participation in employment and education
- Improved public awareness of vehicle theft dynamics
- Changes in youth culture – living in the electronic world?
Influences contributing to a slower decline in profit motivated theft

- Car crime is a high reward low risk activity
- Profit motivation is strong and enduring
- Profit motivated thieves constantly adapt to circumvent barriers
- The legitimate and illegitimate mix in the motor trades
- Challenges to reform - Cost benefit constraints
Challenges Ahead

- Nationally theft increased marginally in 2011 – NSW down 1%
- The hardening economic environment – the impact of a two speed economy on crime rates?
- A shift in priorities for governments, agencies and business
- Reform fatigue – Greater intervention for diminishing returns?
Welcome to CAR-SAFE, the online home of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council

The concerted effort of the NMVTRC and its stakeholders in police services, insurance, motor trades, vehicle manufacturing, registration authorities and justice agencies has contributed substantially to the nation’s strong decline in vehicle theft.

While theft has more than halved over the last five years, a vehicle is still stolen every 10 minutes in Australia. With around 60,000 thefts per year we have a long way to go before we can reach our target of being the best performing nation in the western world.

The Australian community bears the cost of vehicle theft - estimated to be over $610 million per year - through higher insurance premiums and demands on our justice system.

At CAR-SAFE we are helping Australian industry, government agencies and the community to drive down vehicle theft.