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# Responding to the Challenge of Increasing Vehicle Crime in Victoria



Assistant Commissioner Robert Hill APM – National Vehicle Crime Conference 2017



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# Increased Vehicle Crime

## 2015

- Increase in theft of and from vehicle offences in Victoria
- >20% Increase in both categories (c/w all burglary offences ~10%)
- Highest rates for 10 years
- Driving crime data in Victoria
- First time Victoria heads the nation for vehicle-related theft
- Sustained trend (based on rolling 12 month Data)



# Crime Trends



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	2001	2002	2004	2005	2008	2010	2012	2014	2015
TFMV	67,086	58,303	46,793	47,134	53,058	44,624	46,914	49,312	54,943
TOMV	42,867	31,677	22,167	20,793	17,459	14,321	16,126	16,697	18,858

- ▶ TFMV 2015 = Highest Rate Since 2002 (58,303)
- ▶ TOMV 2015 = Highest Rate Since 2005 (20,793)



# 2015 Trending



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## THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE AND THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

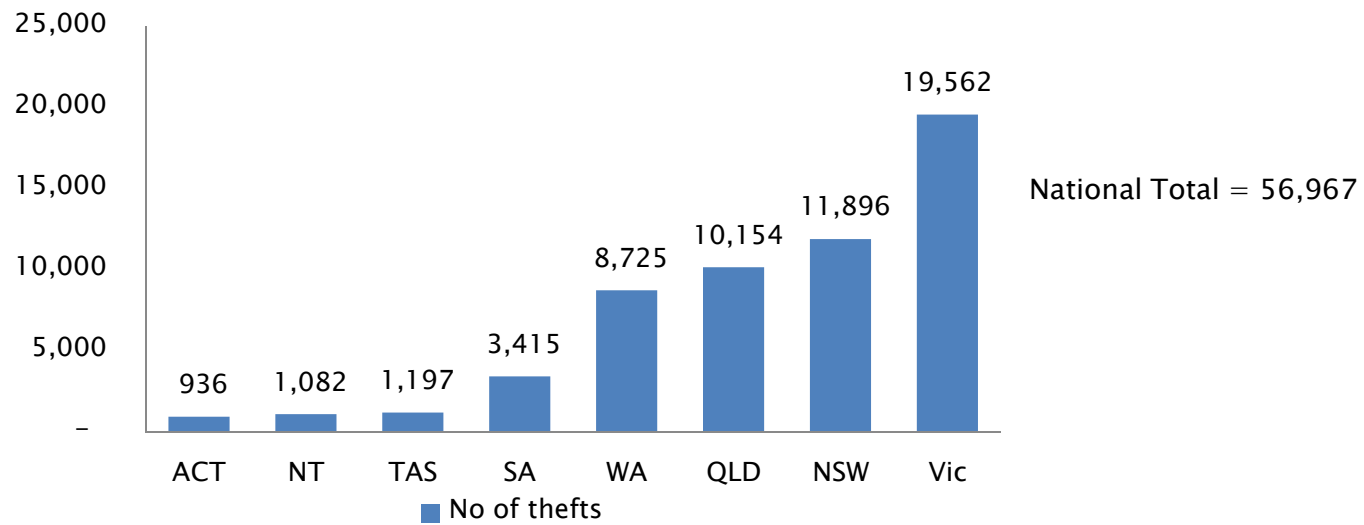


# The National Picture



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### Total Thefts by Jurisdiction for 2016



NMVTRC, 2016





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# Offending trend change

## Escalation in violence to commit crimes

- Car-Jacking
- Aggravated Burglaries/Home Invasions – to steal car keys

## Increased “networked” offending

- Information sharing and engagement between offender groups

## Short-term offending

- Retention of stolen vehicles for longer periods

## Youth Offenders

- Fewer offenders – committing more crimes





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# Offending

Vehicle crime is linked to a range of other crimes

## Profit Motivated

- Organised Crime – off–shore/rebirthed/facilitation of major crime/drugs
- Dismantled – Parted out
- Scrapped
- Low recovery rate

## Short-term

- Individuals and semi–organised groups
- Facilitation of crime (serious and volume)
- Gangster – “Gangsta” lifestyle
- High risk behaviour – Evade Police – joy–riding



# Offenders



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Offenders aged under 25 are most significantly represented in the commission vehicle-related theft

Networked groups of younger offenders working together to steal vehicles / commit other crimes – more brazen and confrontational

Offenders increasingly using vehicles as a tool or weapon in order to commit crimes (ram raids/pursuits – ramming police vehicles)







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# The Impact

## Community Concern

- Safety/Confidence

## Enabler for other crime

- Serious Crime – armed robberies/shootings
- Burglaries – residential/commercial
- Petrol Theft
- Vehicle rebirthing/scrap metal
- Toll evasion
- Regulatory requirement avoidance  
(unlicensed/unregistered/compliance requirements)

## Organisational reputation





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# Our response

## Corporate responsibility

- Vehicle Theft Reduction Plan (VTRP)

## Review of organisational:

- Systems/Practices/Processes

## Intelligence Products

- Understanding the TOMV/TFMV environment

## Legislative Reform

- Aggravated Burglary
- Car-Jacking
- Scrap Metal Industry (cash for scrap/vehicle parts)
- Bail Act provisions





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# Vehicle Theft Reduction Plan

## VTRP

- Formally endorsed by Victoria Police Executive Command February 2016
- Organisational focus on four key pillars
  - Establishing Best Practice
  - Stakeholder Engagement
  - Communications
  - Research





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## Establishing Best Practice

- Review (of existing business focus)
- Gap Analysis
- Table Findings
- Improvement opportunities
- Revised practice – Implementation
  - Re-structure – dedicated vehicle crime teams (local)
  - Recidivist Offender Management (Model)
  - Crime Scene Investigations– Establish KPIs/Code of Practice
  - Acquittal of forensic identification files/warrants
  - Bail compliance





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# Stakeholder Engagement

## Established at Executive level

CEOs and Senior Managers – Public/Private Sectors

- **Government Departments** (DHHS/DoJR/DET/Secure Services/ResiCare)
- **VicRoads** – technology and governance
- **Judiciary** – sentencing/referrals
- **Industry** – Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce/Master Builders Association Victoria
- **Insurance Council Australia**
- **Local Councils** – community safety/awareness
- **Crime Stoppers**
- **National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC)**

## Improved sharing of information and Intelligence





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## Key Partnership

### The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council

- Key partner
- Expertise in vehicle theft

### 2016 Alignment of its Victorian Program of Work

- State Government objectives
- Victoria Police activities





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## NMVTRC Program of Work (Victoria)

Key initiatives with Victoria Police include:

- **Police access to CARS Database**
  - aid to tasking and coordination of policing resources
- **Youth engagement**
  - supporting Victoria Police and Parkville Justice Precinct Youth Mentoring Program
- **Vehicle Tracking Project**
  - City of Casey 2017
- **Operation Bounce Back**
  - High-Risk vehicle crime municipalities (Hume, Greater Dandenong, Casey, Monash, Greater Geelong)
- **National Vehicle Crime Conference 2017**
- **Research Investment (VTRP Research Pillar)**



# Communications



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## Internal and External

- “*The Thankful Thief*”
  - Social media video clips
  - Public awareness postcards
- Increase Awareness
  - Local Councils
  - Government Departments
  - Insurance Companies
  - Industry
  - VicRoads
  - Victoria Police







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## Research

### Victoria Police Research 2016

- Examination of the vehicle theft environment
- Identification of national and global
  - Initiatives/success/results
- Inform future VTRP focus

### NMVTRC Research 2017

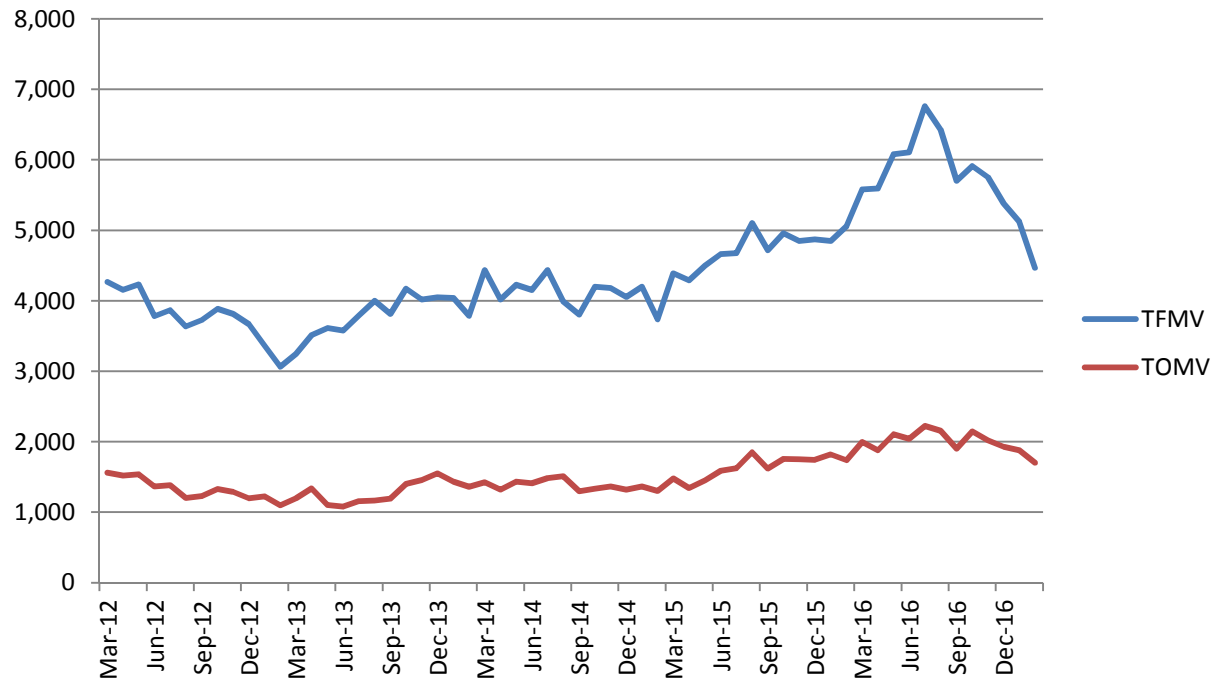
- Victorian Program of Work commitment
- Examining the increased prevalence of violent offending





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# Making a difference – Current





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# The future challenge

Thefts of and from motor vehicles will continue to challenge Victoria (government, police, and the community)

**Victoria Police** – ongoing commitment

- Youth engagement
- Technology – vehicle security, tracking, number plates

## Stakeholder Engagement

### Community

- Awareness
- Attitude

### Research – understanding the environment

- Offenders and offending



# Thank you



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