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AUSTRALIAN VEHICLE CRIME CONFERENCE

NSW POLICE FORCE MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION STRATEGIES

**Detective Superintendent Murray Chapman
Property Crime Squad
New South Wales Police Force**



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TRADITIONAL METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

- Motor Unit – 14 staff. Operating for 12 years
- Methodical vehicle theft & re-birthing investigations
- Resource intensive and time consuming
- Seized vehicles require long term secure storage
- Delays in prosecution due to vehicle identification & linking POI's
- POI's continued unlawful activities – theft/re-birthing
- Prosecutions had little impact upon the stolen un-recovered rate
- Difficult to dispose of vehicle exhibits & storage costs



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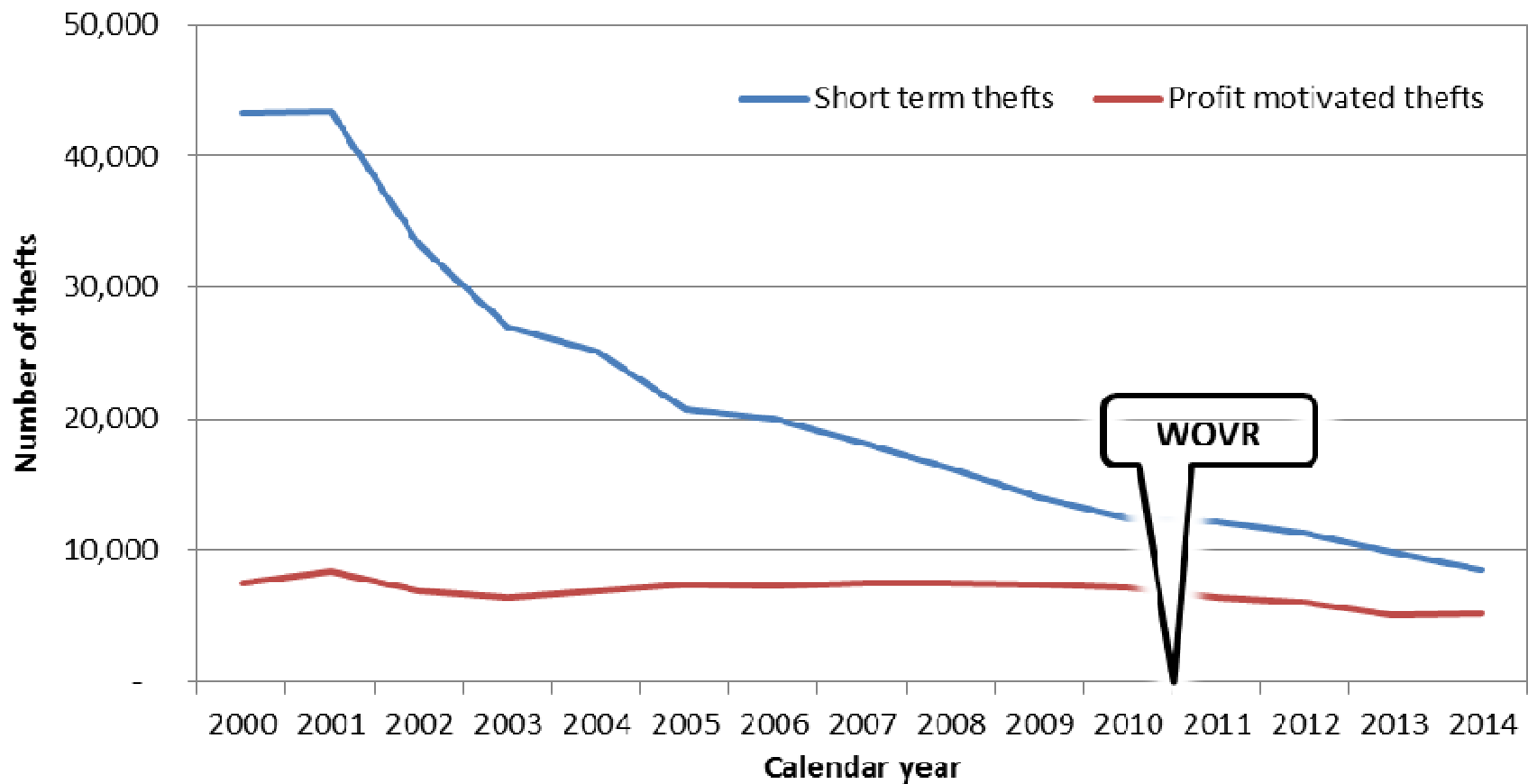
2015 CAR THEFT DATA REVIEWED

- In 2014 - 12,435 light commercial and passenger vehicles stolen in NSW
- 4,124 (33.25%) of these vehicles were never recovered
- Value of these vehicles approximately \$44.7 million
- More than 45% of the unrecovered vehicles less than \$5,000
- Approximately 23% of the unrecovered vehicles valued b/n \$5,000 - \$10,000
- Unrecovered vehicle rate remained constant (approximately 30%)
- 2011 – WOVR Laws introduced – Reduction in PMVT



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Motor Vehicle Theft in NSW, 2000 - 2014



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NEW STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTED

- 2015 - recognised response was having no significant impact on profit motivated vehicle theft (PMVT).
- 16 key strategies subsequently used
- Some already in place prior to review



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STRATEGY 1 – DEDICATED MOTOR UNIT

- 14 investigators attached to the Motor Unit.
- Led by a Detective Chief Inspector. 2 Sergeants. 11 Constables.
- Report to a Detective Superintendent.
- Investigate organised crime groups involved in car rebirthing and organised car theft.
- Provide support and advice to LAC's re car theft and rebirthing
- Follow up on all significant fresh intelligence re car theft and rebirthing
- Provide training to LAC's re motor vehicle theft and business inspections



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STRATEGY 2 – REFOCUSSED MOTOR UNIT

- Less focus on long term re-birthing investigations. Investigations streamlined
- More focus on actioning fresh intelligence of locations & POI's handling stolen vehicles on a regular basis
- Use of CARS Data to track motor vehicle theft
- Proactive business & compliance inspections without warrant
- Used new legislation – 2015. Sec151 & 153 of the *Motor Dealers & Repairers Act 2013* allows police power of entry and inspection of recyclers, repairers and dealers without warrant, to search for stolen vehicles & parts etc.
- Taking a multi agency approach – RMS, Fair Trading NSW, EPA & Local Council involved in inspections



Example - Sydney City Spares Lansvale



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Sydney City Spares

- 7th May 2015 - Business compliance inspection conducted
- Multi Agency approach – Cabramatta LAC, PCS Motor Unit, RMS, Fair Trading NSW, Local Council
- Owner was an unlicensed Motor Vehicle Recycler
- On site scores of motor vehicles in various states of dismantle
- Crime Scene warrant executed once a number of stolen motor vehicles were located - scene processed & guarded for 5 days
- 38 SMV recovered (stolen within 6 mths & 8 hrs)



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EXAMPLE- Windsor Road Vineyard



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Windsor Road Vineyard cont.

- 24 September 2015 – Search warrant executed
- Joint Operation involving Hawkesbury LAC & Marine Area Command
- Rural Property littered with motor vehicles, heavy vehicles and plant equipment
- 9 Stolen motor vehicles , 4 stolen boats and trailers recovered
- 2 heavy vehicle trailers with identifiers removed seized
- 1 stolen 225 Yamaha outboard engine (Valued \$27,000)
- Occupier charged with Receiving & Dealing in the Proceeds of Crime



EXAMPLE - Bringelly Road, Leppington



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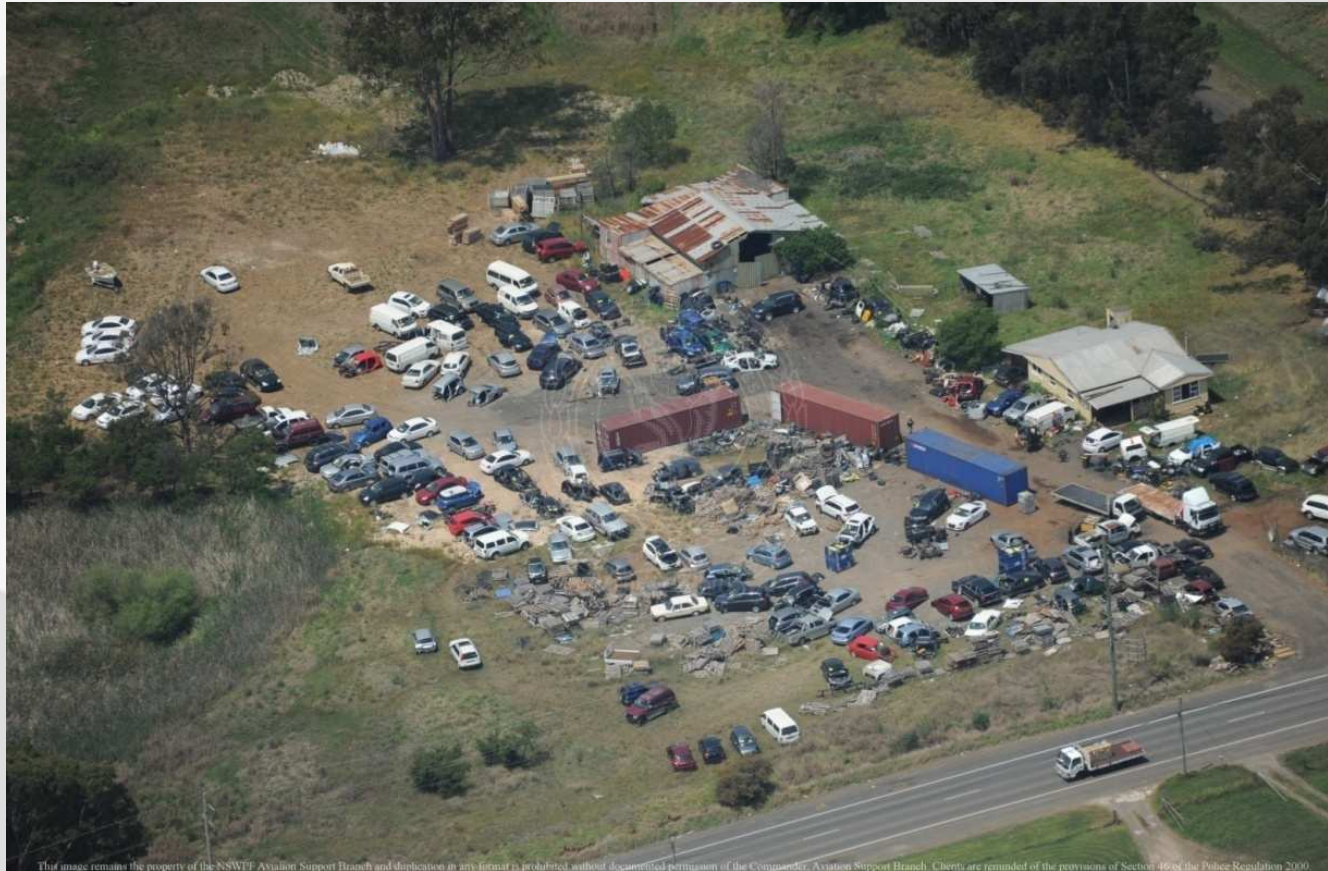
Bringelly Road, Leppington Cont.

- Approx 40 motor vehicles in various states of dismantle located
- Crime Scene warrant executed,
- 22 Stolen vehicles recovered including a Mack Prime Mover & 15 tonne truck
- Records of purchases seized, resulting in the identification of a further 13 stolen vehicles
- Owner charged with Dealing in Proceeds of Crime



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Example - Devonshire Road Kemp's Creek



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Devonshire Road Kemp's Creek

- 10th November 2015
- Rural Property (No D.A approval)
- Unlicensed Motor Vehicle Recycler/Dealer
- Multi agency operation – PCS Motor Unit, RMS, Fair Trading NSW, EPA, Local Council
- In excess of 100 motor vehicles on site being dismantled for shipment to middle east & New Zealand
- Initially located 3 stolen vehicles, applied , granted & executed Crime Scene Warrant



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BENEFITS OF THE NEW MODEL

- Local Area Commands seeking to conduct their own business inspections with & without Motor Unit assistance
- Immediate action taken when stolen &/or re-birthed motor vehicles are located, or breaches of the Motor Dealers & Repairers Act are detected
- Shorter turn around with legal actions & prosecutions
- Businesses are closed down & criminal enterprises are disbanded



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RESULTS

- Over 250 stolen vehicles and engines recovered
- Over 50 persons charged
- Over \$5 million property recovered
- Numerous organised PMVT groups dismantled
- Ongoing PMVT of certain makes of vehicles halted



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STRATEGY 3 – STRONG POLICE POWERS

- 2015 - NSWPF received additional powers under the *Motor Dealers and Repairers Act 2013* & Motor Dealers & Repairers Regulation 2014, Motor Repairers Act.
- Allows Police power of entry, inspection and production of records, take notes and or recordings and search for stolen motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts upon business where police and authorised officers have reasonable grounds are used to carrying on a business or trade for which a licence is required.
- NSWPF can conduct overt business inspections upon businesses without warrant where suspected illegal activities are being conducted in relation to the motor vehicle theft, re-birthing, repair etc.



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STRATEGY 4 – STRONG SPECIFIC CAR REBIRTHING LEGISLATION

Legislation: Crime Act 1900

NSW is the only state in Australia who have specific criminal offences relating to Motor Vehicle re-birthing offences, and do not rely on Fraud offences to prosecute offenders for motor vehicle re-birthing:

Sec 154F	-	Steal Motor Vehicle or vessel	-	Imprisonment 10 years
Sec 154G	-	Facilitate organised car or boat re-birthing activities	-	Imprisonment 14 years (strictly indictable)
Sec 154H	-	Making, using & interfering with unique identifiers	-	Imprisonment 7 years
Sec 154I	-	Possession of motor vehicle or vessel where unique identifier has been interfered with	-	Imprisonment 5 years
Sec 154J	-	Possession of vehicle identification plate not attached to motor vehicle	-	Imprisonment 5 years

There are also sentencing guidelines with regards to Motor Vehicle re-birthing, which are guided by the number of vehicles the POI has re-birthed,

Car jacking offences:

Sec 154C	-	Taking motor vehicle or vessel with assault or with on board	-	Imprisonment 10 years
Sec 154C(2)	-	in circumstances of aggravation	-	Imprisonment 14 years (strictly indictable)

Use of other criminal offences for the possession, distribution/sale & disposal of stolen motor vehicles & motor vehicle parts:

Proceeds of Crime:

Sec 193B(1)	-	Knowingly Conceal Proceeds of Crime	-	Imprisonment 20 years (strictly indictable)
Sec 193B(2)	-	Knowingly Deal with Proceeds of Crime	-	Imprisonment 15 years (strictly indictable)
Sec 193B(3)	-	Dealing in the Proceeds of Crime	-	Imprisonment 10 years

Criminal Group:

Sec 93T(1)	-	Participates in a criminal group	-	Imprisonment 5 years
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Fraud:


Sec 192E	-	Deception & dishonesty	-	Imprisonment 10 years
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STRATEGY 5 – ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING

- Property Crime Squad Intelligence Unit conduct daily scanning of motor vehicle theft related intelligence reports, submitted on the NSWPF COPs system by police.
- Each report is collated and sent weekly to the Manager of the Motor Unit who assesses each intelligence report.
- Follow up calls are then made by the Motor Unit for all intelligence reports that are deemed worth pursuing.
- Motor Unit engage the LAC and ensure they are aware of the intelligence.
- The Motor Unit provide advice and often assistance in providing an appropriate response to the intelligence provided.
- The most significant results have resulted from actioning intelligence in a timely manner.

TITLE:		SUSPECTED OF VEHICLE REBIRTHING – HORSLEY PARK	
IR Number:	I 619 010 66	Date:	27/06/2016
Submitting Station:	Crime Stoppers	Crime Type:	Vehicle Rebirthing
Location:	POI (s): Mark GA UCI DOB 27/ 11/ 197 4 CNI 155 801 08 & 643 831 991	Vehicle(s):	Various (vehicles & trucks)
225 Delaware Road Horsley Park NSW			
SUMMARY OF INCIDENT:			
<p>In part (re vehicle rebirthing) ... On 27/06/2016 Crime Stoppers received the following: POI GAUCI is stealing vehicles & trucks - rebirthing them & sending them to Israel. The yard is full of old junk cars & crap. The POI is stealing cars & pantech trucks; stealing them from all areas. He strips them down & even puts entire vehicles in shipping containers, which he ships to Israel. The rebirthing is organised by the guy who owns a smash repair place at Wetherill Park (NFD). The shipping containers are heavily insulated. His rear yard is an "Aladdins Cave" of illegal goods, drugs, SMVs and firearms. The POI hides various firearms throughout the LOC, some stored in vehicles - under the bonnet & amongst the engine etc. The POI is the cousin of the Rebels OMCG President - Alex VELLA.</p>			
ANALYSIS:			
<p>GAUCI has 13 x charges recorded against him (2016 - 1993) for offences of; drugs, malicious damage, GIC, armed robbery with offensive weapon, traffic, SMV; & resist arrest. GAUCI also has 8 x IR's (2008 - 2016) in relation to; robbery, drugs, Gangs - OMCG; & firearms possession. Intelligence also suggest GAUCI has numerous firearms (NFD) secreted throughout the LOC (within vehicles, in shipping containers etc). Information suggests GAUCI has in excess of 28 firearms (rifles, pistols etc) here. GAUCI has a 'pill press' at the LOC & it is possible he is manufacturing drugs. GAUCI is alleged to also be in possession of a/several reptile/s. It is not known if these reptile/s are venomous or if he is licensed to possess it/them.</p>			
<p>Also residing on the LOC (in a shed/demountable at the rear) is GAUCI's son – Shane GAUCI DOB 17/09/1973 CNI 15305237. Shane GAUCI has 7 x charges recorded against him (2008 – 1992) for offences of; traffic, PCA; & sexual offences.</p>			
225 Delaware Road, Horsley Park NSW			

STRATEGY 6 – TRAINING TO LACs

- Motor Unit travel twice a year to rural Commands and provide face to face training regarding police powers to inspections of licensed/unlicensed motor vehicle repairers/recyclers and dealers and then conduct inspections with RMS and Fair Trading.
- Motor Unit provide training and education regarding police powers and investigation techniques to the;
- Constable Development Program,
- Detectives Education Program
- Highway Patrol Course
- and other training as requested.



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STRATEGY 7 – SCRAP METAL LEGISLATION

- 2015 - NSWPF put forward a proposal to Government for the regulation of the scrap metal industry.
- 2016 – Legislation approved.
- Regulatory scheme for businesses trading in scrap metal, with the following key features:
 - Requirement for all businesses trading in scrap metal to register with the NSWPF every three years and pay a small registration fee;
 - A prohibition on such businesses paying cash for scrap metal;
 - A requirement for businesses trading in scrap metal to keep and maintain records of all transactions, including details identifying the seller of the metal and the amount paid for it;
 - A requirement that scrap metal dealers report suspicious transactions to Police.
 - A prohibition on scrap metal dealers accepting vehicles for scrap that did not display identification details such as a vehicle identification number, engine number, chassis number, or registration details (where applicable) to help facilitate identification of the vehicle;
 - Powers for police officers to enter such businesses during business hours without a warrant to investigate breaches of regulatory requirements and search, take photographs and recordings and seize and copy records as required, for this purpose.
 - Penalties for non-compliance with regulatory requirements, including provision for short and long-term closure orders.



OTHER STRATEGIES

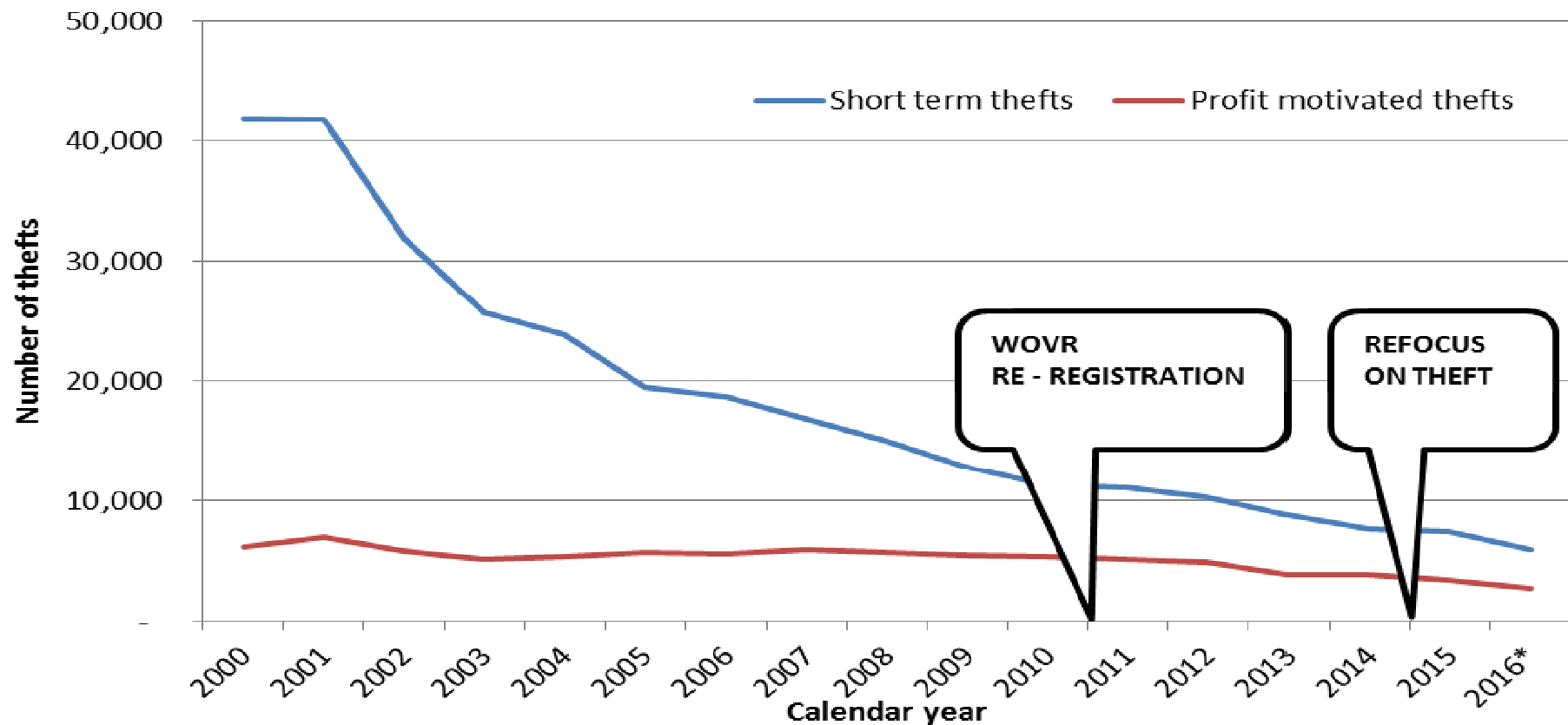
- STRATEGY 8 - Written off Vehicle Register (WOVR) Legislation introduced in 2011
- STRATEGY 9 – NSWPF has a “Head of Profession” for car theft
- STRATEGY 10 – NMVTRC Membership
- STRATEGY 11 – Access to and Operationalisation of the CARS Dashboard
- STRATEGY 12 – Reviewed stolen vehicle reporting SOPS to exclude mistaken reports
- STRATEGY 13 - Automatic number plates recognition Systems (ANPR) Over 550 units
- STRATEGY 14 – COMPASS – LACs measured and report on car theft every month
- STRATEGY 15 – CARS reports supplied to Regions and LACs
- STRATEGY 16 – NSW Car Theft Action Group



NSW RESULTS SINCE 2015

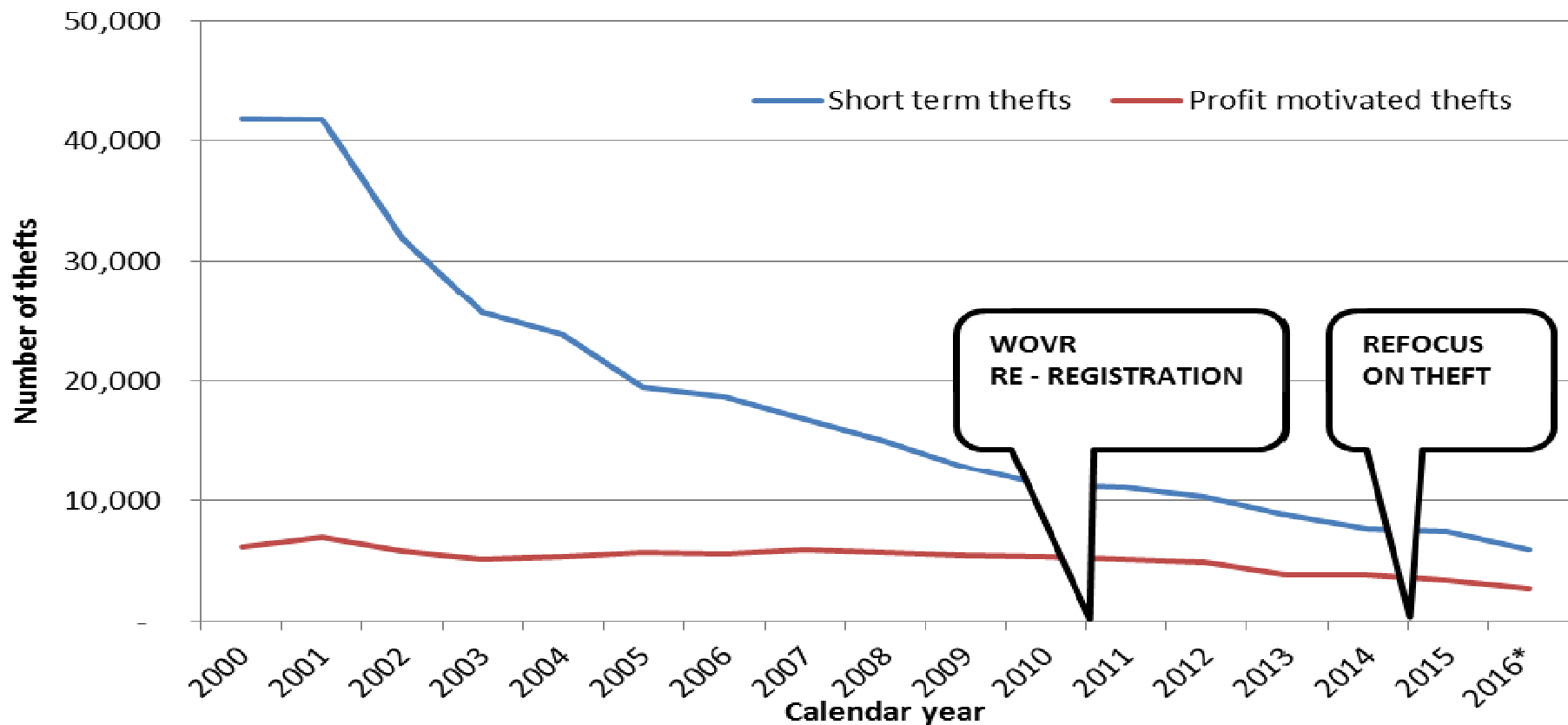
- PROFIT MOTIVATED VEHICLE THEFT – **DOWN 15.5%**
- SHORT TERM VEHICLE THEFT – **DOWN 2.9%**
- OVERALL VEHICLE THEFT – **DOWN 6.2%**

Passenger/light commercial vehicle thefts in NSW, 2000 - 2016*



RESULTS

Passenger/light commercial vehicle thefts in NSW, 2000 - 2016*



NOT STOLEN FROM NSW!



CONTACT

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