

Car Theft Prevention

As the table below illustrates, **motor vehicle theft** has been dropping in Waverley over the last few years. However, Waverley Council would like to see this figure further minimised. As such, we've provided a few safety tips to help you make wise and informed decisions when purchasing a vehicle.



Waverley LGA	Jan-Dec 2011		Jan-Dec 2012		Jan-Dec 2013		24-month trend^^	60-month trend^^	2013 LGA Rank*
Offence type	Number of incidents	Rate per 100,000 population	Number of incidents	Rate per 100,000 population	Number of incidents	Rate per 100,000 population			
Motor vehicle theft	181	264.0	162	233.9	122	176.1	-24.7%	-12.6%	74

Source: BOCSAR

What to consider when...

... buying a new vehicle:

The level of inbuilt security in cars is the single most important factor that determines the theft rate of a particular model. However, not all cars are designed with this in mind. Poor standards of vehicle identification make it easy for thieves to convert stolen vehicles into cash.

Choosing a new vehicle with a high security rating not only significantly reduces the risk of your vehicle being stolen, it also sends a clear message to vehicle manufacturers that consumers demand a high level of security when making the decision to purchase a new car.

What features should you look for?

The most secure vehicles will have the majority of the following features as standard:

- integration of engine immobiliser with on-board LAN computer, protecting the system from bypassing by substituting core components
- deadlocking doors, which means doors cannot be unlocked by smashing a window and releasing the door button
- two-stage locking, which allows you to unlock only the driver's door and prevents a stranger from entering the car from the other side
- VIN-based microdots, which provide comprehensive vehicle identification via more than 5,000 tiny polymer dots, each bearing the vehicle's unique 17-digit VIN
- headlight timers that can help you out of a dark car park and switch off after a set time
- interior lights activated by the remote when the doors are unlocked to let you see if anyone is inside
- panic alert on the key fob remote to sound the car's horn and flash lights
- an alarm.

... buying a used vehicle:

It may come as a surprise, but Australia has one of the highest rates of vehicle theft in the western world. Figures show that one out of every 120 Australian households fell victim to car theft in the last 12 months. Of the 60,000 or so vehicles that are stolen each year in Australia, around one-third are never recovered.

A large number of these vehicles are stripped for parts or given new identifiers and placed back on the market to be sold to unsuspecting buyers. If you buy a car from a private buyer which is later found to be stolen you risk losing both the vehicle and the money you paid for it. This can also be the case if you purchase a car that is still under finance. To be completely safe you should buy through a licensed dealer. This means you are protected by law against loss of the vehicle if it is later found to be stolen, written-off or financially encumbered. However, if you do decide to buy privately, you can minimise the risk by following a few simple steps. [Click here to view these tips.](#)