



Car Theft Prevention

Motor vehicle thefts, in Australia, increased by 9 per cent in 2016, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Director of Crime and Justice Statistics William Milne said that the number of victims of motor vehicle theft rose to over 56,000 in 2016, the highest number since 2012.

It was noted that three-quarters of vehicles were stolen from either an outbuilding or residential land (which includes thefts from garages, driveways and carports) or from a street or footpath.

For Waverley, as the table below illustrates, although motor vehicle theft has been stable over the last 24 months, it has dropped 3.5% percent over the last five years. Council would like to see motor vehicle theft further minimised and as such, we've provided below some tips to help.

	2015		2016		2017		24 month trend	60 month trend
	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	126	176.3	87	120.7	110	152.6	Stable	-3.5%

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 stole. It also sends a clear message to vehicle manufactures that consumers demand a high level of security when making the decision to purchase a new car.

Buying a used vehicle

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. The Department of Fair Trading's website has actions you can take to minimise your risk when purchasing privately, these include:

- Checking that the certificate of registration and sellers drivers licence match
- Check that the number plate, Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and engine number match the certificate of registration
- Confirm that the car is registered by doing a MY RTA search
- Do a Personal Property Securities Register (PPSR) check

If you buy through a licensed dealer you are protected by law against loss of the vehicle if it is later found to be stolen, written-off or financially encumbered.

General Car Security

The ABS noted in their 2016 statistics that three-quarters of vehicles are stolen from a home location (46%) or in the street or other open land (34%). So even when your vehicle is parked out the front or your house or in your driveway it is not necessarily secure. It is therefore important to take steps to minimise your risk.

One of the most important things is key safety, as most late model cars have sophisticated security systems they are difficult to steal without keys. So, don't leave your keys laying around, in the glove box or hidden on the car, it really just makes it easier for car thieves. When at the gym, beach or any activity ensure your keys are secured.

Older cars are often targeted due to a lower level of security. For pre-2001 cars, having a good quality engine immobiliser fitted has proven to be the most effective protection measure. Almost 60% of older cars stolen either had no engine immobiliser or a unit that was not Australian Standards approved.