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# Melbourne International Vehicle Crime Conference

Victoria Police Deputy Commissioner Simon Overland  
13-14 June 2007



# A vehicle crime policing strategy for the 21st century



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## A diverse problem requires a diverse approach

- This conference identifies just how wide the issues are in vehicle theft for policing organisations–

**Disrupting Criminal Networks**

**Young People and Vehicle Theft**

**Trans-national Car Crime Trends**

**Insurance and Car Crime**

**Understanding the “New” Vehicle Crime**

**Emerging Vehicle Crime**

**Innovations and Strategies in Policing**

# A vehicle crime policing strategy for the 21st century



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## The underlying drivers for vehicle theft vary significantly

- Understanding the problem...

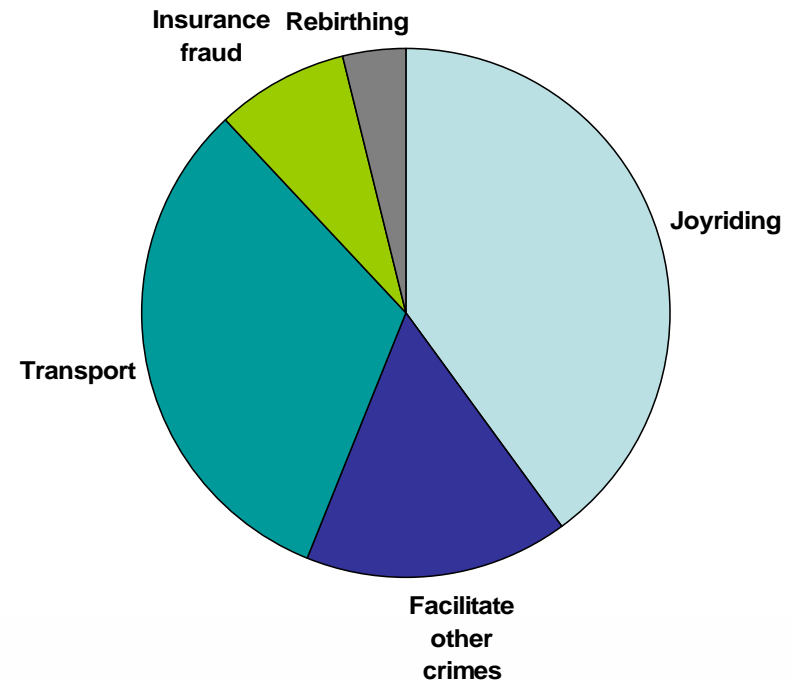
What are the drivers?

What are we doing?

What are others doing?

What works?

Vehicle Theft Motivations (illustrative)



# A vehicle crime policing strategy for the 21st century



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## A vehicle crime policing strategy must incorporate a range of approaches

### OPERATIONAL

**Uniform police response**

**Regional Crime Desk and Crime Scene Officers**

**Regional Vehicle Theft units**

**Vehicle identification vetting service  
Subject matter consultants**

**Vehicle Theft Crime Theme Desk**

**Organised Motor Vehicle Theft Squad**

**Vehicle examination unit**

### STRATEGIC

**Vehicle Theft Reduction Strategy**

**Regional Strategic Assessments**

**Annual Vehicle Theft Strategic Assessment**

**Crime Strategy Group**

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## Victoria Police has developed a new crime operating model with four fundamental principles

The New Model Must  
Be...

...Because...

**Strategic**

Modern policing is as much about staying ahead of criminals as it is about catching up with them

**Dynamic**

The ability of the police to prevent, investigate and prosecute crime must evolve at least as quickly as criminals' ability to find new or more effective ways to profit from it

**Collaborative**

The magnitude of the challenge is such that investigators need to be able to draw on capabilities from across the force, as well as from partners outside it

**Developmental**

The model must provide the means to continuously improve the skills and processes needed to anticipate and meet evolving challenges

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## The Strategic principle includes an annual cycle of review

- **Developing strategies and strategic decision-making, supported by better information, comprehensive tasking & coordination, and a common language to describe priorities.**
- **Annual strategies to define major crime areas for focus, as well as the levels and types of accountabilities needed centrally and in the regions.**
- **Separate the responsibility for strategy development from the operational and tactical levels.**
- **An Accountability and Resource Model (ARM) to provide a common framework for determining where investigative leadership resides and the types and levels of resources that are appropriate.**



## The Dynamic principle includes continuous innovation and improvement

- **The model itself is dynamic allowing for a constant shift and changing roles.**
- **The Crime Department was restructured to allow more flexible delivery with resources owned by Major Crime Tasking & Coordination rather than individual managers or workgroups.**
- **The deployment of specialist resources through the Tasking & Coordination process, including interpreters, solicitors, forensic accountants, and surveillance and covert resources.**
- **Adapting through an increased investment in specialist capability (including technology) to meet the requirements of judicial processes and the sophistication of criminals.**

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## The Collaborative principle includes increased co-ordination across resource managers

- **Collaboration is measured across the Crime Department, between the Crime Department and the regions, between investigators and specialist resources, and with partners outside Victoria Police.**
- **The model strengthens the formal linkages between the Crime Department and the regions.**
- **Regional and Department Superintendents meet monthly to identify issues, trends, and opportunities, through the Major Crime Tasking & Coordination group.**

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## The Developmental principle includes leadership and specialist capabilities

- Tailored leadership programs in addition to 360 degree feedback.
- T shaped capability development, with individual investigators able to work across many crime types (the horizontal part of the T) but also developing deep experience and expertise in one or more specialist capabilities (the vertical part of the T).
- The recognition of true experts in particular crime experts to operate as Subject Matter Consultants and provide mentoring, capacity development, and best practice guidelines.

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## An illustrative example of the new model in action

- **Regional police provide the frontline response to vehicle theft.**
- **They are supported by Crime Scene Officers for forensic services including fingerprinting and DNA.**
- **The regional Crime Desks report increases in vehicle theft activity.**
- **Dedicated vehicle theft tasking units are created to address areas of identified hot spots and organised or prolific offending.**
- **The Organised Motor Vehicle Theft Squad and the Vehicle Theft Crime Theme Desk provide a vetting service and subject matter consultancy to identify stolen and disguised vehicles.**
- **The Vehicle Examination Unit provides formal forensic examination evidence for seized vehicles.**

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## The model in action continued...

- **The Vehicle Theft Crime Theme Desk identifies a state-wide correlation between arson offences and motor vehicle theft.**
- **Regional police in consultation with the Organised Motor Vehicle Theft Squad identify an increasing level of sophistication involved in a number of vehicle thefts and potential targets.**
- **The Vehicle Theft Crime Theme Desk identifies a link through 'Call Charge Records' analysis between a number of profiled recidivist offenders under the Targeted Active Recidivist Program and the regional targets.**

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## The model in action continued...

- **An investigation plan with target profiles is approved by Tasking & Coordination for the formation of a taskforce within the Crime Department.**
- **A taskforce is created utilising personnel from the regional unit, the Crime Department Tasked Operations, and subject matter consultants from the Organised Motor Vehicle Theft Squad.**
- **The sophistication of the criminal operation requires a solicitor and a forensic accountant, and computer crime and criminal proceeds experts to form part of the multi-disciplinary team.**
- **The Australian Crime Commission, the Crime Examiner's Office, and the Australian Taxation Office are engaged to assist with coercive examinations and money laundering activities.**

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## The model in action continued...

- **The Vehicle Theft Crime Theme Desk provide an assessment of the offender methodology and the identified systems and process weaknesses the criminal group are exploiting in national and state legislation concerning import, export, registration, and vehicle identification.**
- **The Crime Strategy Group develops policy for sustainable changes and negotiates with other government agencies for legal and process reforms.**
- **The Crime Strategy Group integrates vehicle arson investigation for investigators into annual control strategies and recommends integration of preventative strategies into the Vehicle Theft Reduction Strategy.**
- **The Vehicle Theft Crime Theme Desk monitors the implementation of control strategies and the Vehicle Theft Reduction Strategy including the effects on theft report rates.**

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## The model in action continued...

- **Post Operational Assessments for the taskforce are filed for future learnings.**
- **Subject Matter Consultants incorporate the learnings into the Investigative Guidelines for Vehicle Theft.**
- **All intelligence holdings are maintained on the common investigation and intelligence platform (Interpose).**
- **The Vehicle Theft Crime Theme Desk update the profiles and status of the apprehended targets and include prison release flags under the Targeted Active Recidivist Program for monitoring.**
- **The Crime Strategy Group develop and implement organisational strategies to address drug and alcohol as a driver of volume crime including vehicle theft.**

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The Melbourne International Vehicle Theft Conference provides an opportunity to incorporate 'what works' world wide into the new model.

## Strategic Presentations

- Forensic data analysis
- Public private intelligence networks
- Balancing privacy and public interest
- Protecting older vehicles
- Community communications challenges
- Theft or fraud
- Transnational car crime trends
- The vehicle parts chain
- Engaging young people

## Operational Presentations

- The parallel export market
- The terrorist use of vehicles
- Multi-dimensional car theft rackets
- Disrupting criminal networks with new technology
- Victoria's theft reduction strategy
- Western Australia's new vehicle crime strategy