



Department for Planning and Infrastructure
Government of Western Australia

Protecting older vehicles

WA vs the World

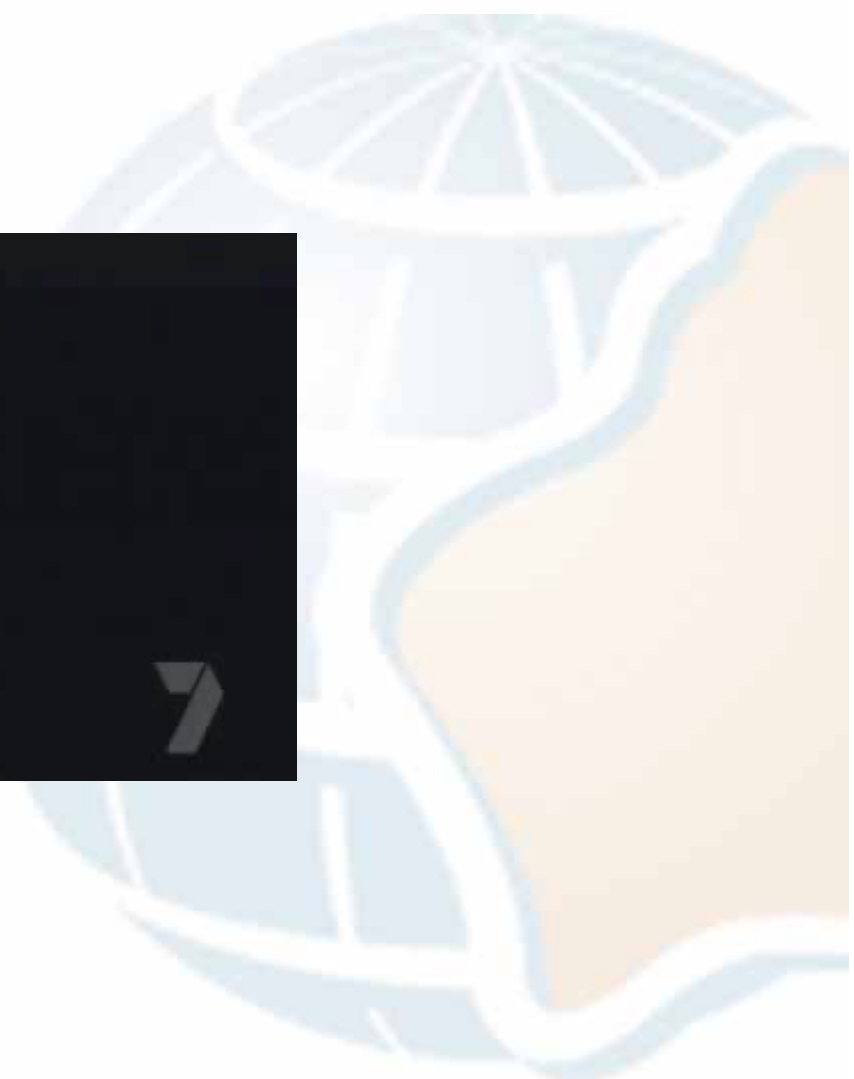
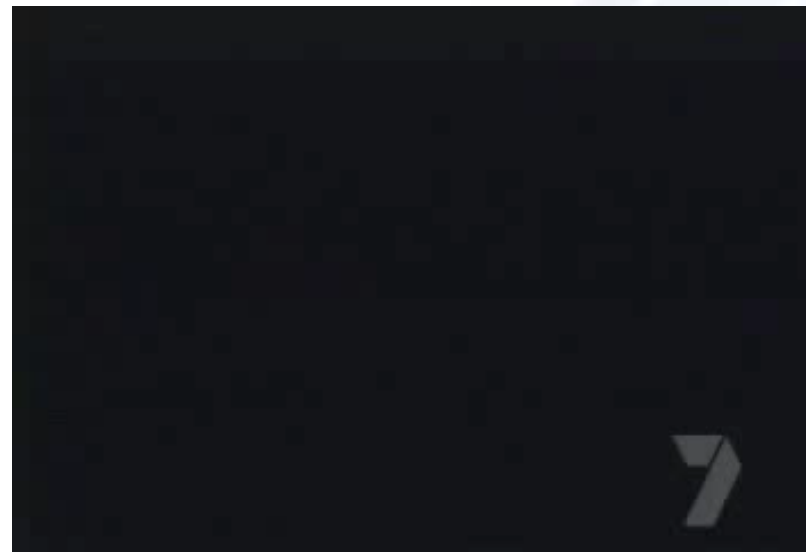


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In the 1990s the Western Australian public and the Government were made to count the real cost of car theft to the community and its citizens.



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Car theft in Western Australia: 1990s

- Ten road fatalities between 1990 and 1991 caused by juveniles driving stolen vehicles





Car theft in Western Australia: 1990s

- Highest rate of car theft in Australia by the mid 1990s
- Car theft increased by nearly 13% between 1997-1998.
- Extensive media coverage of juvenile crime and car theft and unprecedented public pressure for action



Voluntary immobiliser scheme

- \$18 million voluntary scheme introduced in 1997
- Provided \$30 rebate for owners who voluntarily fitted immobilisers to family vehicles
- 90,000 immobilisers fitted to Western Australian vehicles in first year of operation



Immobiliser Incentive Scheme

- Aimed at ensuring most family vehicles fitted with immobilisers within five years
- Compulsory from July 1 1999 for any light passenger vehicle in Western Australia, unless exempt, to have factory fitted or government approved immobiliser before vehicle could be licensed or transferred to new owner.
- Scheme now applies to retrofitting older cars



Elements of success

- Vehicles owners only required to fit an immobilizer when buying either a new or second-hand vehicle
- As penetration rate increases, buyers are less likely to be liable for costs
- Scheme initially provided \$40 rebate when authorised installer fitted immobiliser (discontinued 2002)
- Tying requirement to transfer process provides ongoing mechanism for administering scheme



Who is exempt from fitting an immobiliser?

- Vehicles over 25 years old
- Heavy vehicles
- Vehicles sold to car dealers
- Vehicles transferred subject to an order of a Court or as a consequence of a bequest from a deceased estate
- motorcycles
- farm vehicles
- Emergency vehicles

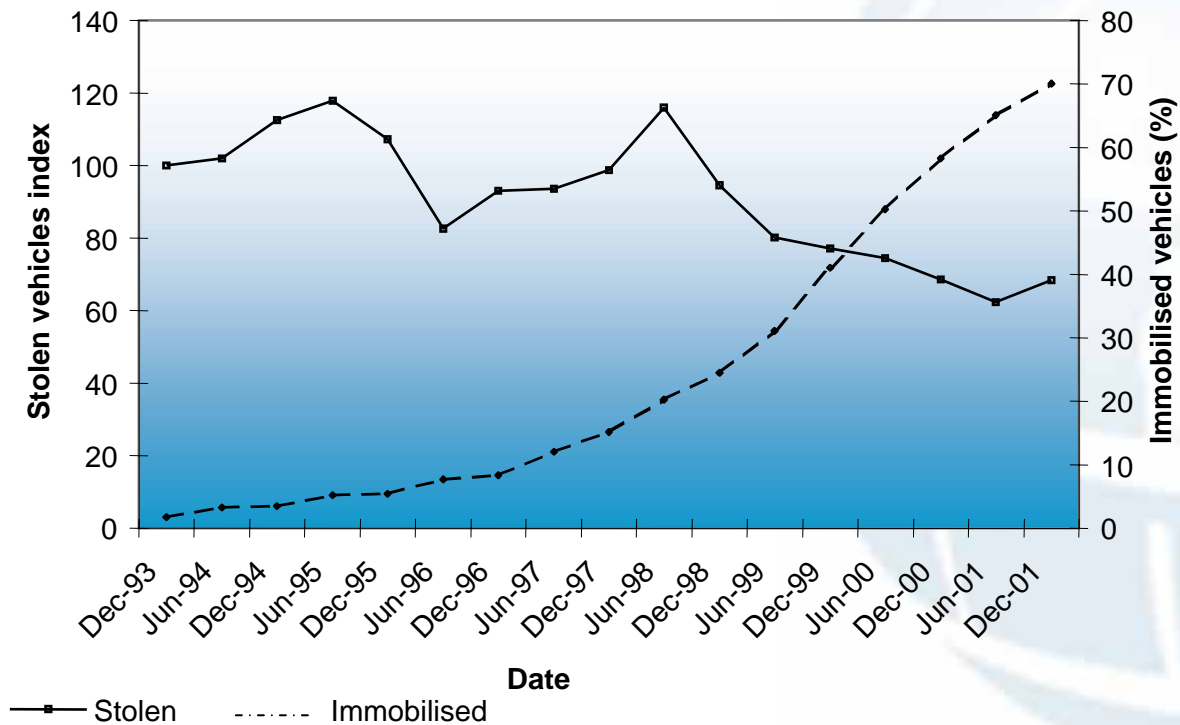


Immobiliser Incentive Scheme: Early results

- 150,000 immobilisers installed in first year at a cost of \$6 million
- WA vehicle theft rate dropped 12% in same time period
- Rate of immobilisation of family vehicles generally exceeded expectations
- 1998-2001: Car theft rate dropped from 17,000 per annum to 12,500 per annum



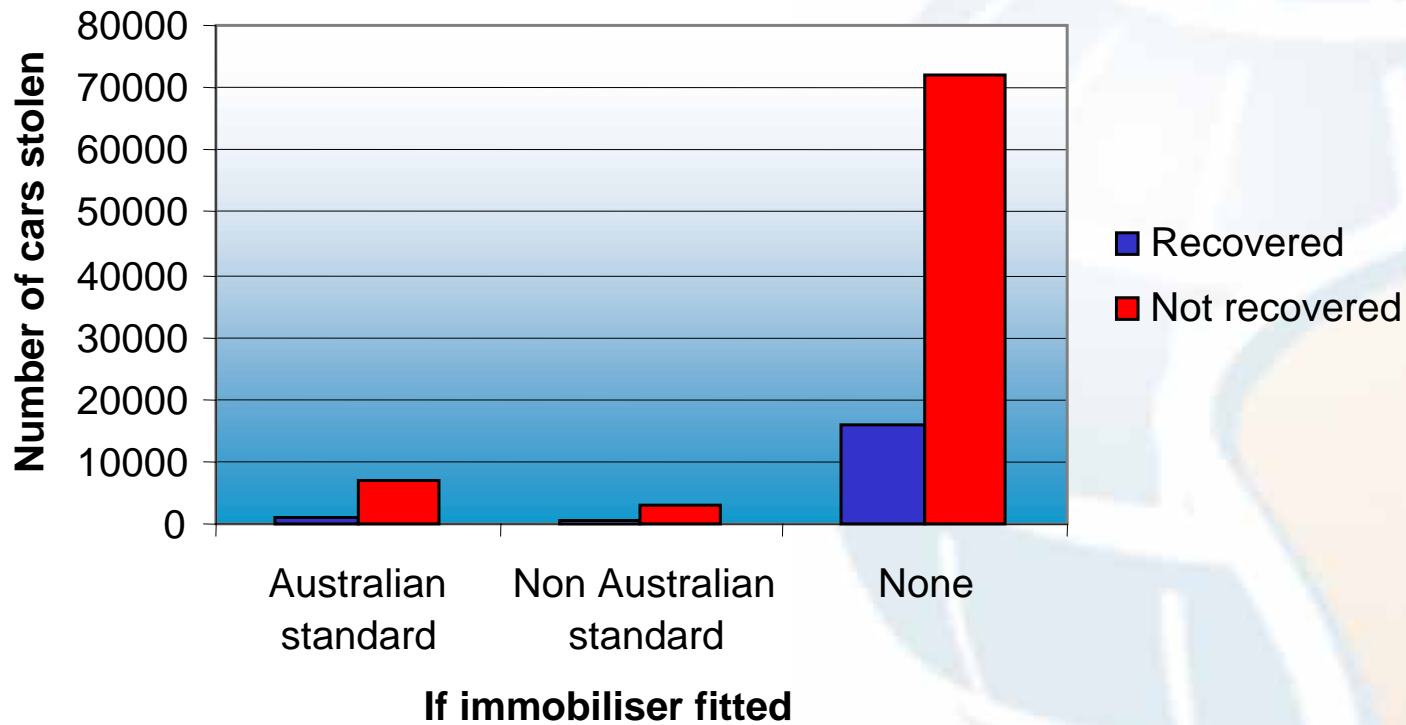
Stolen Vehicles and Immobilised Vehicles, 1993 to 2001: Passenger and Light Commercial Vehicle categories



Source: Principles for Compulsory Immobiliser Schemes
National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council



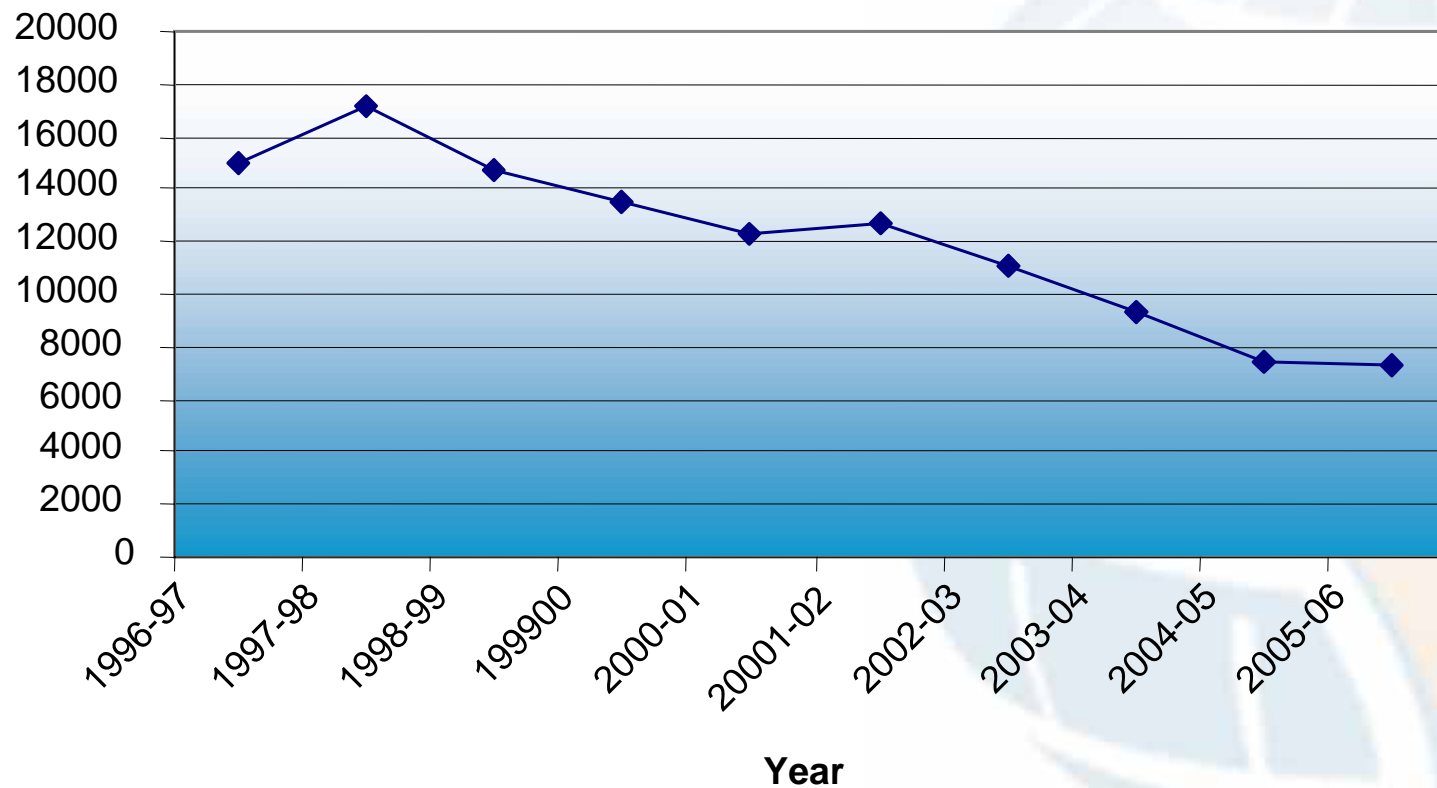
Immobilisers help stop car theft: July 1997-June 2006



Source: RAC website (www.rac.com.au)



Number of vehicles reported stolen 1998-2006



Source: WA Police Annual Report statistics



Changing theft patterns

- Small rise in professional theft as rate of opportunistic theft decreases.
- Immobilisation effective in deterring opportunistic thieves from stealing cars
- Older cars still vulnerable: three out of every four cars stolen is more than ten years old.



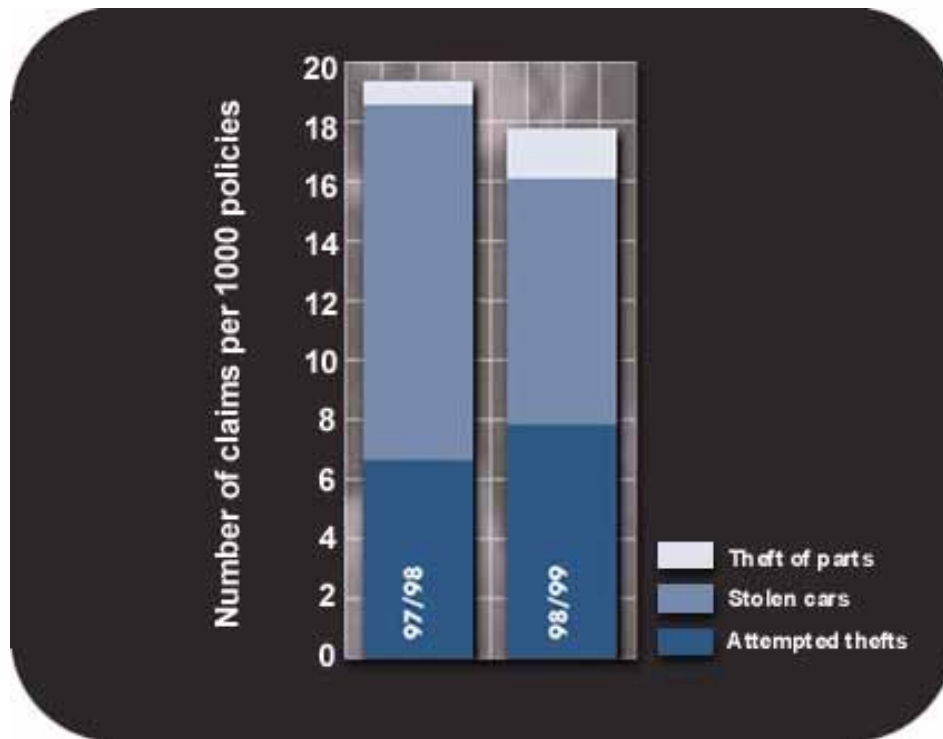
Real cost of opportunistic car theft

- Results in more than 23 deaths on average per year in Australia
- Every fifth person killed an innocent road user
- Economic cost: over \$39 million per year

Source: National Car Theft Reduction Council 2005 study



Impact on insurance industry



Source: Car Theft Report, RAC website (www.rac.com.au)



Innovation and other benefits

- Lower price for immobilisers and installation costs
- Increase in units available
- Product innovations and increased reliability of immobilisers
- Enabled manufacturers to enter export markets
- Increased business opportunities for immobiliser installers



Immobilisers in WA: 10 years on

- International interest from many overseas countries including Canada, New Zealand and UK
- Permanent cultural change in car owner behaviour and willingness to invest in crime prevention devices
- 2005 survey found WA had highest level of support for compulsory retro fitment of engine immobilisers