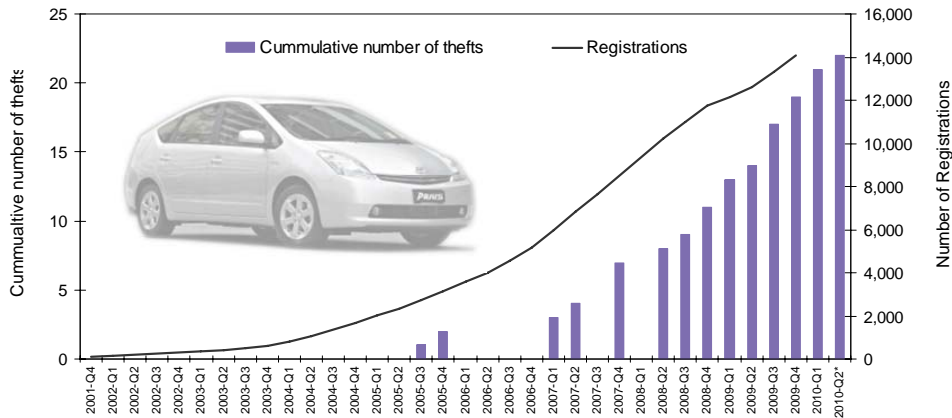


National Motor Vehicle
Theft Reduction Council
driving down vehicle theft

theft matters

ALTERNATE POWERED VEHICLES AND THEFT

Toyota Prius thefts in Australia as at 31 May 2010*



* includes data to end of May for NSW, VIC, QLD, SA, NT and ACT. Data from WA and TAS is to the end of March only.

Worldwide sales of hybrid vehicles reached almost 740,000 in 2009 and comprised 1.3% of the global light vehicle sales. In the Asia-Pacific region hybrid vehicle sales increased 433% from 2006 to 2009 with the region accounting for 48% of worldwide hybrid vehicles sales¹.

In Australia, registrations of the longest selling hybrid, the Toyota Prius, are steadily growing. There were just over 14,000 registrations as of December 2009 compared to the 5,000 registrations as of December 2006.

With the introduction of the hybrid Camry and Lexus models soon to be followed by a range of other hybrid brands and fully electric vehicles the number of alternate powered vehicles on Australian Roads is expected to grow rapidly in coming years.

In the last 12 months there have been only 22 Prius thefts in Australia, 20 of which were recovered. However, as the volume of hybrids and other alternate power vehicles increases the market for used vehicles and their unique replacement parts will also grow.

The replacement cost of the sophisticated batteries used in these vehicles will become a significant factor as to whether it is viable to repair an older or damaged vehicle.

It is difficult to predict when alternate powered vehicles will become attractive to profit motivated thieves but we do know that where legitimate market opportunities exist profit motivated thieves will follow. The NMVTRC and CARS will continue to closely monitor the theft of alternate powered vehicles.

¹ R. L. Polk & Co. "Asia Pacific Region Propels Growth of Hybrid Market" (www.polk.com/KC/PV-201003-Issue019-AsiaHybrids.pdf)



The NMVTRC acknowledges all police services, registration authorities, participating insurers, the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, Glass's Information Services, Polk Autospec and Insurance Australia Group for the supply of the data on which this report is compiled. Theft incident data may be subject to later revision by the data providers.

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The NMVTRC is an initiative of all Australian Governments and the Insurance Industry

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