
Tasmanian Stolen Motor Vehicles (SMV) – Research Report May 2022.

This report sets out to provide a picture of stolen motor vehicles (SMV) in Tasmania. The approach is to firstly examine the current state-wide data for SMVs from the *Corporate Performance Report* (CPR), followed by a short comparative analysis of the five-year average data from the departmental *Annual Reports* and *Crime Statistic Supplements*.

In the current March CPR, for the year to date (July 2021 – March 2022), there have been 907 vehicles across the state recorded as stolen.¹ This figure for March represents an increase of 90 vehicles, nearly ten percent, compared to the same time last year (817).

On average across the state during the current reporting period, approximately 100 vehicles per month are stolen, with the highest monthly rate being 122 vehicles in January 2022 and the lowest monthly rate 70 in November 2021.²

It is reasonable to estimate by the end of the reporting period (June 2022), the final number of vehicles stolen for the state to be equivalent or just below the five-year average of 1160.³

The three divisions with the highest number of incidents of motor vehicle theft as reported in the March CPR, are Launceston (232), Glenorchy (163) and Hobart (112).⁴ A more detailed analysis by District and Division will be done next month.

Whilst the number of vehicles being stolen may appear high, when viewed against the data from previous years, there has been a significant decrease in the number of vehicles stolen. Using the five-year average data, reported in the *Annual Report* and the *Crime Statistics Supplement* across the twenty-five years that reporting has been done, there has been a 62.5 percent decrease in the average yearly rate of vehicles stolen, from 3099 vehicles in the period 1996/97-2000/01,⁵ to the current rate of 1160 vehicles for 2016/17- 2020/21. This decrease represents 1939 fewer vehicles being stolen each year on average across the five-year average.

In addition, as of March 2022, 30% of vehicles stolen weren't recovered and 187 that were recovered were fire damaged. In that same year, 1195 vehicles were burgled to steal valuable property.⁶

¹ *Corporate Performance Report*, March 2022, pp30, <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/about-us/our-performance/>

² *Corporate Performance Report*, March 2022, pp 30, <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/about-us/our-performance/>

³ *Crime Statistics Supplement 2020 -21*, pp 5, <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/about-us/our-performance/>

⁴ *Corporate Performance Report*, March 2022, pp 30, <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/about-us/our-performance/>

⁵ DPFEM *Annual Reports* from 1996/97 – 2000/01, <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/about-us/corporate-documents/annual-report/>

⁶ *Corporate Performance Report*, March 2022, pp 29 -30, <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/about-us/our-performance/>