



THE DINKUM OIL #38

A drop from the Council of Heritage Motor Clubs to keep you going.

OCTOBER 2026

HISTORIC VEHICLE THEFT & SALVAGE RECOVERY RIGHTS

TAVCCA (The Association of Veteran Car Clubs of Australia) has raised a concern regarding the ownership of historic vehicles following theft if the vehicle is recovered after a total loss insurance claim has been settled.

Salvage rights. In the historic vehicle sector some insurers provide a salvage-rights option for vehicles where repair costs and salvage value make repair after an accident, or fire or flood, etc. uneconomic, providing the policyholder the opportunity to keep the unrepaired vehicle after it is declared a total loss.

With a stolen vehicle however, salvage rights do not apply in historic and classic vehicle policies when a theft claim is settled as a total loss. If a historic vehicle is recovered after the insurer has settled with the policyholder, there is no express contractual right identified allowing the former owner to recover or purchase the vehicle. This means that if a historic vehicle is subsequently recovered after theft, the former owner has no right to it nor has the first option to purchase the recovered vehicle.

TAVCCA is proposing that the insurers introduce a Right of First Reacquisition, giving the former owner the opportunity to purchase a recovered historic vehicle before it is auctioned, sold or otherwise disposed of by the insurer, subject to anti-fraud provisions.

TAVCCA and CHMC are approaching the insurers, seeking clarification, and as a start, have written to Shannons first, asking for their consideration of the matter. We all recognise the longstanding support of Shannons and other insurers for the historic and enthusiast vehicle community, and the much-appreciated salvage rights provision following accident/fire/flood for our vehicles. This concern relates specifically to the theft total-loss exception in policies, which may result in an outcome historic vehicle owners may not reasonably expect or want.

ZOOM DETAILS FOR JOINING CHMC MEETING AT ARMIDALE ON 24 OCTOBER 2026.

Morning Session

Council of Heritage Motoring Clubs' Zoom Meeting

Time: Oct 24, 2026 09:45 AM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84119959334?pwd=8FHu4l6fASRwbcNn2l0NQHS3d9dg91.1>

Meeting ID: 841 1995 9334

Passcode: 869510

Afternoon Session

Council of Heritage Motoring Clubs' Zoom Meeting

Time: Oct 24, 2026 01:30 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86147234229?pwd=6hF7W1nwPuu66UxJ075xcxuaCRLupE.1>

Meeting ID: 861 4723 4229

Passcode: 404167

More information - Council's website: www.heritagemotoringcouncil.org.au Facebook: [@CHMCNSW](https://www.facebook.com/CHMCNSW)

