

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

V54 - NT Written-off Vehicle Register (WOVR)

What is the Written-off Vehicle Register?

The Northern Territory Written-off Vehicle Register (WOVR) has been introduced as part of a national drive against vehicle theft, and is aimed at reducing the number of stolen vehicles that could possibly be registered with false identification obtained from wrecked vehicles.

This bulletin outlines the process and procedure that must be followed by vehicle owners and persons who trade or assess written-off vehicles.

What vehicles are subject to the WOVR procedures contained in this bulletin?

All vehicles 15 years of age or less, from the date of manufacture as shown on the compliance plate, excluding trailers not more than 4.5 tonne Aggregate Trailer Mass and all plant-based special purpose vehicles.

What is a written-off vehicle?

A vehicle is considered to be written-off if it is assessed as a Total Loss.

Total Loss is defined as a motor vehicle or heavy trailer damaged by collision, fire, flood, accident, trespass, dismantling, demolition or other event, to the extent that its fair salvage value plus the cost of repairing the vehicle for use on a road or road related area, would be more than the fair market value of the vehicle immediately before the event that caused the damage.

Note: This also includes unrecovered stolen vehicles.

How do I know if the vehicle is currently written-off?

To assist with immediately obtaining the information you require, you can purchase a search certificate by doing a check on the [Personal Property Securities Register \(PPSR\)](#). This search certificate may provide information on the status of the vehicle (such as if the vehicle has any debt recorded against it, is written-off or stolen). It may also provide information on damage types, severity and locations for written-off vehicles.

National Assessment Guidelines for Determining a Write-Off

All damaged vehicles that are assessed as being a Total Loss as per the definition must be assessed using the Damage Assessment Criteria for the Classification of Statutory Write-Offs, published by the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council to determine if the vehicle is a Statutory or Repairable Write-Off.

The Damage Assessment Criteria for the Classification of Statutory Write-offs, are available on the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council website at:
<http://www.carsafe.com.au/stakeholders-a-partners/publications/management-of-written-off-vehicles>

Repairable Write-off is a vehicle or heavy trailer that is assessed as a Total Loss and is not a Statutory Write-off.

Statutory Write-off is a vehicle that has sustained extensive damage to major vehicle components, has been assessed as a Total Loss and meets the Statutory Write-off criteria as detailed in the Damage Assessment Criteria for the Classification of Statutory Write-offs, as published by the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council.

Who is required to notify the Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) when a vehicle is written-off and when?

It is compulsory for vehicle owners to notify the MVR when a vehicle is written-off within 14 days from the date the vehicle was declared a Total Loss under a contract of insurance. If no claim is being made under a contract of insurance, 14 days from the date of the incident that rendered the vehicle a Total Loss. A refund of current registration may be applied for where applicable. All notifications must be made on the approved form [Written-off Vehicle Advice Form VS7](#) and forwarded to the nearest MVR office.

Notification may also be made on behalf of the owner on the approved form by:

- a) the insurer that declared the vehicle to be a total loss under a contract of insurance;
- b) a licensed motor vehicle trader;
- c) a person approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to assess damaged vehicles; or
- d) a person who is qualified or accredited to assess damaged vehicles.

Can a vehicle assessed as a write-off be repaired and re-registered?

Vehicles that have been assessed as repairable write-offs may be re-registered subject to the appropriate level of vehicle inspection and Police clearance. Further information relating to re-registration requirements of a repairable write-off can be found in the department's Information Bulletin [V74 - "Re-registration of a repairable write-off"](#).

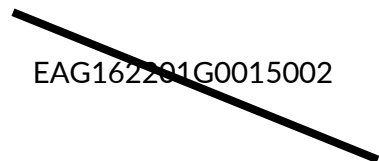
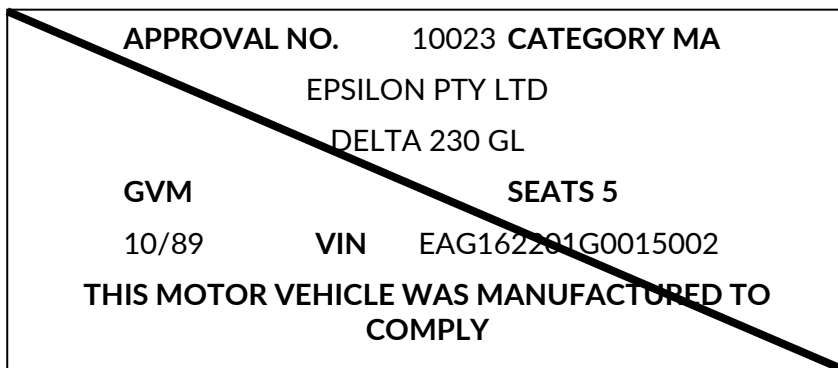
Vehicles that have been assessed as statutory write-offs are suitable for wrecking only and may not be re-registered.

Identification of vehicles assessed as a statutory write-off

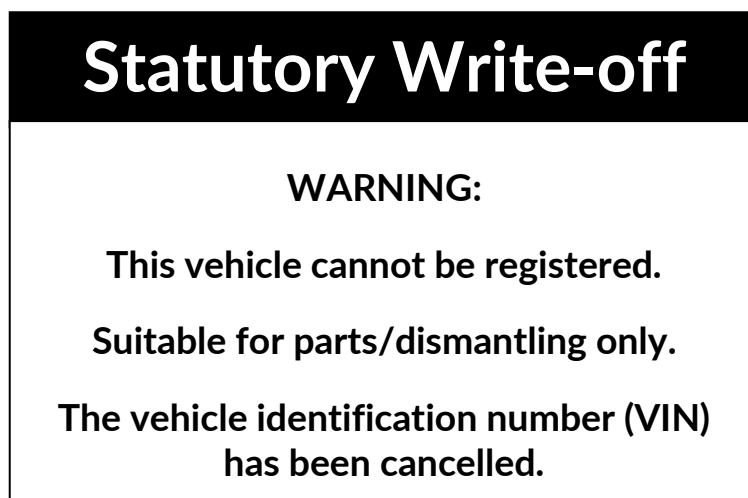
Vehicles that have been assessed as statutory write-offs are required to be identified as such.

On these vehicles, the compliance plate (or compliance label) and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) are to be rendered null and void, if readily accessible.

Compliance labels should be removed and destroyed; compliance plates and VINs should be permanently marked with a diagonal chisel line through the number as shown below. This must be carried out by the person or organisation that has assessed the vehicle as a Total Loss.



Any time a vehicle that has been assessed as a statutory write-off is offered for auction or sale, it must have affixed to it in a prominent position on the front of the vehicle an adhesive label detailing the following warning message:



This label is to have lettering of at least 9mm high on a contrasting background and must be clearly readable from a distance of at least 2m. It is suggested that the label be at least 230mm x 170mm.

Further information

For further information on the WOVR process or assistance with completing the Written-off Vehicle Advice form, please contact the Vehicle Standards Administration Clerk on:

Phone (08) 8999 3114

Email NT.WOVR@nt.gov.au

Fax (08) 8999 3103