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## **Sinking feeling for couple on missing car**

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NADIA needed her car. Her husband has trouble with his legs, and cannot walk far. But in January the couple arrived home after visiting their daughter to find their Toyota four-wheel-drive had disappeared from the driveway.

"It was a real hassle," said the Lakemba woman, who wanted to be identified only by her first name. "I had to rely on my kids to go here and there."

But this week police found the vehicle. It was on the bottom of the Georges River, with an estimated 60 others. Some had been dumped, some had been victims of petty crime and some were by-products of car rebirthing rackets.

"It was our family car for a few years, and it did mean quite a lot to us," she said.

Of the 36 cars salvaged from the river during Operation Rabaul at Georges Hall, 23 - including Nadia's - were identified as stolen. Some had not been reported and the vehicle identification numbers had been removed from others.

Other stolen cars found in the operation included two 1994 Holden Commodores, a 1999 Hyundai Excel, a 2003 Nissan Pulsar and a 1996 Volkswagen. About 24 cars remain on the river bed, too hard to dislodge.

Jordan Baker