



**Multi-Trak Pty Ltd**  
7-9 George Place, Artarmon NSW 2064  
Tel: (02) 9428 8900 Fax: (02) 9428 8911  
ABN 18 110 274 407 Master License 405229196



## Car scam targets top suburbs

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SYDNEY'S wealthiest suburbs provided rich pickings for men accused of plundering late-model cars to hustle through a rebirthing racket in the city's west.

Police will allege thieves combed Bellevue Hill, Mosman, Balmain, Bondi, Woollahra and Annandale with a shopping list of vehicles to steal.

The cars, including Toyota Rav4s, Honda CR-Vs and a Honda Odyssey, were among 15 seized in a series of raids across Sydney on Thursday.

Six men were arrested after riot squad members and 100 police swept through spare parts businesses, wrecking yards and homes in the city's west.

The men were charged with a range of offences including motor vehicle theft, handling stolen car parts and a new charge of facilitating car rebirthing.

One of the men arrested on Thursday, Bilal El-Cheikh Bakkour, appeared in Parramatta Court that day charged with fraud, car rebirthing and 13 counts of stealing a motor vehicle.

Police documents tendered to the court say the cars were stolen from the city's east. Bakkour was refused bail and ordered to appear at Central Local Court on August 30.

In another case, police used X-ray equipment to gather evidence against two men accused of car rebirthing in western NSW.

Benjamin Daniel Sullivan, 30, and Andrew James Skillin, 31, both of Parkes, pleaded guilty to several charges relating to car rebirthing this week.

Police say they rebirthed Toyota Land Cruisers by welding legitimate vehicle identification markers onto vehicles stolen from towns such as Nyngan, Orange and Cootamundra.

They will be sentenced on September 28.

*David Braithwaite and Jordan Baker*