



30 September 2016

Manager  
Competition Unit  
Market and Competition Policy Division  
The Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
PARKES ACT 2600

Email: [competition@treasury.gov.au](mailto:competition@treasury.gov.au)

Dear Manager

## **Exposure Draft - Competition and Consumer Amendment (Competition Policy Review) Bill 2016**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland or the Association)) responds to The Treasury's Market and Competition Policy Division, Competition Unit's invitation for submissions to the Exposure Draft - *Competition and Consumer Amendment (Competition Policy Review) Bill 2016* (the Bill). The ensuing comments are submitted on behalf of its constituent divisions which are confined to issues that are directly relevant to the automotive value chain.

### **2. Submission**

2.1 The MTA Queensland has been a consistent advocate for the reform of Australia's commercial statutory framework supporting the policy reinforcements to the competition and consumer regulatory framework. The Association is of the view that the competitive and equitable operation of markets across the economy would deliver a beneficial dividend to all stakeholders. The automotive value chain could significantly benefit from the amendments to the competition and consumer regulatory framework outlined in the Bill.

2.2 The MTA Queensland has supported the recommendations relevant to the automotive value chain arising from the Harper Competition Policy Review. The initiatives detailed in the Bill to implement the recommendations accepted by the Government are endorsed.

2.3 The Association has the view that there may be unintended consequences from the implementation of amendments detailed in the Bill. If so, the MTA Queensland would support and participate in a policy performance review of the legislation in twelve months from the date of proclamation.

2.4 The Association continues to be of the view that the modernising of the competition and consumer regulatory frameworks should be an ongoing process. The remaining recommendations of the Harper Competition Policy Review should form an essential part of this process.

## **Motor Trades Association Queensland**

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- 2.5 The automotive sector of Australia's economy is undergoing considerable transformation with the cessation of domestic manufacturing. Technology changes will impact the automotive value chain with hybrid, plug-in electric and autonomous vehicles becoming more prevalent in the market.
- 2.6 The franchised retail distribution of motor vehicles is undergoing considerable change. The importation of motor vehicles and components means that small to medium businesses and consumers' interests could be compromised unless the competition and consumer regulatory framework is significantly robust to ensure this transformation does not distort the proper and fair operation of markets.

### 3. Conclusion

- 3.1 We endorse the policy initiatives relevant to the automotive value chain in the Bill and would be pleased to provide further comment on any matters in our submission that may require further clarification or amplification.

### 4. Background

- 4.1 The MTA Queensland is the peak organisation in the State representing the specific interests of businesses in the retail, repair and service sector of Queensland's automotive industry located in the State. There are some 13,000 automotive value chain businesses employing in excess of 90,000 persons generating in excess of \$14.5 billion annually. It is an industrial association of employers incorporated pursuant to the *Industrial Relations Act* of Queensland. The Association represents and promotes issues of relevance to the automotive industries to all levels of Government and within Queensland's economic structure.
- 4.2 The Association is the leading automotive training provider in Queensland offering nationally recognised training, covering technical, retail and the aftermarket phases of the motor trades industry through the MTA Institute (MTAI) - a registered training organisation. It is the largest automotive apprentice trainer in Queensland employing in excess of 35 trainers geographically dispersed from Cairns to the Gold Coast and Toowoomba and Emerald. The MTAI last financial year accredited courses to in excess of 1,600 apprentices and trainees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Brett Dale DBA**  
Group Chief Executive Officer

Yours sincerely



**Kellie Dewar**  
General Manager MTA Queensland