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MEDIA STATEMENT

Thursday 16th February 2017

MTA Queensland says Consumer Detriment Likely if Sunday Trading Commences

On Tuesday the State Government announced sweeping reforms to trading hours stating that the current trading hours were restrictive, confusing and imposed extra costs on businesses, employees and consumers.

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) have previously made a detailed submission regarding trading hours based on a survey of our motor vehicle dealer membership. It indicated 90% support for the retention of the existing Motor Vehicles State Order and that there should be no changes to trading hours.

MTA Queensland are concerned about the government's announcement and the direct effect it will have on automotive businesses.

MTA Queensland member and Managing Director of Ireland's car dealership, Richard Ireland, has stated that his company will definitely not be adopting the practice to open on Sundays and that it goes against the work / life balance he supports for his staff.

MTA Queensland Group CEO, Dr Brett Dale stated, "These views are collectively held by the vast majority of MTA Queensland motor dealer business operators, where weekend staff availability would become a major problem. The changes will cause additional operational costs to businesses which are likely to be passed onto the consumer. MTA Queensland is at a loss in understanding the decision taken by government; the decision supports consumer detriment and completely ignores the large number of submissions made by Industry that opposed the change."

*****ENDS*****

For more information:

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Background:

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. The Association represents and promotes issues of relevance to the automotive industries to all levels of Government and within Queensland's economic structure.

The Association is the leading automotive training provider in Queensland offering nationally recognised training, covering technical, retail and the aftermarket sectors of the automotive industry through the **MTA Institute** - a registered training organisation. It is the largest private automotive apprentice trainer in Queensland employing many trainers who are geographically dispersed from Cairns to the Gold Coast and Toowoomba and Emerald. The MTA Institute last financial year accredited courses to in excess of 2 000 apprentices and trainees.

