



## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Office of Fair Trading Decision A Win For Licensed Dealers

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland applauds the decision of the Office of the Fair Trading (OFT) to prosecute a backyard dealer for making false representations about vehicle odometers prior to sale.

An unlicensed dealer was recently charged under the *Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Act* for offences including unlicensed motor dealing and making false representations about the distance vehicles had travelled and was fined \$16,500 this week.

Under the law, a motor dealer must be licensed to perform the sale of a vehicle. However, many 'backyard dealers' continue to undermine the market and sell vehicles without proper licensing as a way of avoiding legal obligations relating to tax, stamp duty and record keeping.

"The actions of unscrupulous operators jeopardises the integrity of the automotive industry and must be dealt with severely, so we commend the OFT for taking stern action," said Rod Camm, Group Chief Executive for MTA Queensland.

"By knowingly making misleading claims about the distance a vehicle has travelled prior to its sale, these unlicensed dealers are depriving buyers of their legal rights relating to cooling-

### Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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off periods, statutory warranties, and record keeping. More importantly they are misleading the public about the condition of the motor and other potential safety implications.

“Consumers should remember that the safest way to purchase a vehicle in Queensland is to go through an authorised, licensed dealer.”

MTA Queensland continues to advocate against unlicensed dealers and offers a '[dob in a backyarder](#)' process that allows consumers and genuine dealers to report dodgy operators to the OFT.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

**For more information:**

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**Background:**

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (**MTA Queensland**) is the peak body representing the interests of employers in the retail, repair, and service sectors of Queensland's automotive industry. MTA Queensland has been performing its vital representative role for the automotive industry since 1929. In Queensland there are some 15,500 automotive businesses employing more than 90,000 people, that generate more than \$20 billion annually. The Association represents and promotes issues of relevance to all levels of government. In 2019 MTA Queensland was announced as an ABA100 winner in The Australian Business Awards and a finalist in the Lord Mayor's Business Awards, for Business Innovation.

The **MTA Institute (RTO 31529)** is the leading automotive training provider in Queensland offering nationally recognised training, covering technical, retail and the aftermarket sectors of the automotive industry. The MTA Institute is the largest independent automotive training provider in Queensland, employing experienced trainers who are geographically dispersed from Cairns to the Gold Coast and Toowoomba to Emerald. In the last year, the MTA Institute delivered accredited courses to more than 2,000 students. The MTA Institute is the first trade RTO in Australia to be approved under the ITECA Industry Certification Program and was the winner of the Small Training Provider of the Year at the 2019 Queensland Training Awards.

**MTAiQ**, Australia's first automotive innovation hub established by MTA Queensland in 2017, is an eco-system that supports innovation and research for the motor trades.

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