



## MEDIA RELEASE

18 March 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Higher Penalties Needed for Odometer Windbacks

MTA Queensland has seen some progression in the fines being handed down for odometer fraud recently including a case earlier this year involving an Upper Mount Gravatt man charged with tampering with odometers and misrepresenting himself as a licensed dealer.

The man had an expired motor dealer's licence and sold four vehicles that collectively had almost 850,000 kilometres removed from the odometers.

The case resulted in no conviction being recorded and a fine of \$15,000.

This is outrageous behaviour and it is pleasing the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and the Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) take these fraudulent activities extremely seriously. Buying from unlicensed dealers can potentially put lives in danger as the odometer reading misrepresents the integrity of the vehicle.

Unlicensed people suspected of selling cars, and/or committing wind-backs, must be pursued by the OFT.

MTA Queensland supports the OFT by encouraging consumers and genuine dealers to "[dob in a backyarder](#)" via our website which will then be referred to the OFT. MTA Queensland has seen a significant increase in the use of this platform which will lead to better protection for the unsuspecting public.

Rod Camm, CEO for MTA Queensland said, "We are encouraged by the government taking action against unlawful activities, but we are calling for a significant escalation of the penalties available. To discourage these practices, MTA Queensland asserts that penalties

#### Motor Trades Association of Queensland

Address: Freeway Office Park, Building 8, 2728 Logan Road Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113 (Postal: PO Box 4530, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113)  
Telephone +61 7 3237 8777 | Toll Free 1800 177 951 | Email [info@mtaq.com.au](mailto:info@mtaq.com.au) | Website | [www.mtaq.com.au](http://www.mtaq.com.au)

need to include the seizure of cars, surrendering of all proceeds of the sale as well as hefty fines. These practices are high level consumer fraud and need to be stamped out immediately. We will continue to refer complaints to government and call for stronger action. Our message to consumers is to tread warily and get your vehicle checked by member businesses of MTA Queensland, so they don't get taken for a ride."

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

**For more information:**

Lysa Dugandzic | General Manager - Marketing & Communications | 0428 510 163 | [lysad@mtaq.com.au](mailto:lysad@mtaq.com.au)

**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 16,000 automotive businesses employing more than 90,000 people, that generate more than \$7.24 billion to the state economy annually. The automotive industry is estimated to contribute \$37 billion to the Australian economy each year. 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.

**Motor Trades Association of Queensland**

Address: Freeway Office Park, Building 8, 2728 Logan Road Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113 (Postal: PO Box 4530, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113)  
Telephone +61 7 3237 8777 | Toll Free 1800 177 951 | Email [info@mtaq.com.au](mailto:info@mtaq.com.au) | Website | [www.mtaq.com.au](http://www.mtaq.com.au)