



MEDIA RELEASE

2 March 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

If It's Flooded Forget It - A Warning for Car Buyers and Sellers

The message of “if it’s flooded forget it” doesn’t just apply to driving a vehicle into dangerous flood waters. It also applies as a warning to used car buyers and sellers.

As we begin to emerge from the latest flood crisis, the first major issue for Queenslanders is a potential problem with insurance claims. Flood water damage may be available under some comprehensive car insurance policies, but most third-party car insurance plans will not cover damage from flood water. Even with comprehensive policies, there may also be exclusions where an individual has intentionally driven into flood waters, which results in damage to the vehicle.

A real concern for the Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) is for consumers who urgently need to replace their damaged vehicle and may buy another flood damaged vehicle. Additionally, there is a risk motorists may inadvertently damage their own vehicle trying to get it started after water ingress.

Rod Camm CEO for MTA Queensland said, “There is a warning here. Before trying to start your car after water ingress, or before buying one, please check with an MTA Queensland member who is set up to perform the proper checks, including ensuring the vehicle hasn’t been underwater or previously been written off. Using a licensed used car dealer, who is a member of MTA Queensland, will alleviate a lot of stress for a consumer, as they have the reassurance of knowing the dealer will reliably take care of their best interests.

“There are some other major considerations as well. The second-hand car market is booming at the moment and there may be difficulties finding a replacement vehicle and paying a

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 | Website | www.mtaq.com.au

reasonable price for it. Due to the record high prices being attached to used cars, resultant of the high demand connected to stock shortages, there may be difficulties in acquiring another car. MTA Queensland's licensed used car dealers are best positioned to find the right car, at the right price.

"To compound this, consumers may also have issues replacing their vehicle with a new vehicle instead of a pre-owned one, owing to stock shortages in this industry. However, don't worry, there are cars out there. I encourage people to be flexible about what they are looking for and that will enhance your chance of success.

"The long and short of it is, be very careful when potentially buying a used car that has been affected by flood water. The best way to avoid any encumbrances, and find a reasonably priced car, is to use a licensed used-car dealer who is a member of MTA Queensland."

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For more information:

Matthew Ivers | Marketing & Communications Coordinator | 0413 454 308 | matthewi@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 ecosystem that supports innovation and research for the motor trades.

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