



## MEDIA RELEASE

31 January 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Time To Act on Odometer Fraud

Reports of a commercially available vehicle tampering device featured on local news on Monday, 30 January 2023 has highlighted the urgent need for immediate regulatory action and higher penalties to be enacted against odometer fraud in Queensland.

As revealed on Channel 7 and Channel 9 News, a diagnostic tool capable of accessing and manipulating vehicle data is being purchased online from overseas markets and used by backyard operators to fraudulently rewind odometers prior to selling a vehicle.

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland), the peak body representing the interests of employers in the retail, repair and service sectors of Queensland's automotive industry, has staunchly fought over the last 24 months for significant escalation of penalties for those found to be deceiving consumers and tampering with vehicle odometers.

Looking to tackle 'backyard operators' head-on and stop them in their tracks, MTA Queensland launched an [online reporting platform](#) in late 2022, providing consumers and businesses with a method for reporting evidence of a vehicle they believed had been tampered with to the Office of Fair Trading for investigating.

MTA Queensland CEO Rod Camm said, "I applaud the media and industry leaders for shining a light on this crucially important issue and bringing it to the front of mind of government and consumers who may be otherwise unaware that they are being caught out by unscrupulous operators.

"Instances of odometer tampering like this is what our industry is up against every day, and we are regularly receiving reports from consumers and trusted, licensed automotive

#### Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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businesses who are impacted by this illegal act through both loss of revenue and loss of trust in the industry by association.

“It is clear that despite attention being drawn to the severity of this large scale consumer fraud, far greater preventative measures are yet to be introduced by the State Government. While many are not reporting being caught out by this criminal activity, we need urgent action, at a minimum, penalties that include the seizure of tampered vehicles, surrendering of all proceeds of the sales, and substantial fines, if we are serious about stamping out these practices.

“We will work collaboratively with Government in the coming months to put plans into motion that target backyard operators and other dodgy dealers and make it far more difficult for odometer tampering to take place.”

\*\*\*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 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.

**MTA/iQ** 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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