



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Time To Get Serious On Odometer Fraud

A recent investigation into crime syndicates performing odometer wind-backs aired on local news has once again brought to light the urgent need for regulatory change and an overhaul of penalties related to odometer fraud in Queensland.

As the peak industry body representing businesses in the automotive industry, the Motor Trades Association of Queensland is well aware of the devastating impacts the unlawful act, which amounts to consumer fraud performed by unscrupulous and unlicensed individuals, has caused to the state's law-abiding automotive dealership businesses, as well as to consumers.

Frustratingly, despite ongoing campaigning from MTA Queensland, and despite the issue once again emerging in the mainstream media, very little continues to be done at the policy level in the way of taking odometer fraud seriously and introducing sufficient preventative measures.

In an effort to help combat the issue, MTA Queensland launched an [online odometer tampering reporting platform](#) in late 2022, delivering critical information and evidence from consumers to assist the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) in their investigations.

MTA Queensland CEO Rod Camm said, "For too long now, dodgy backyard operators have been left largely to do as they please when it comes to tampering with vehicles prior to sale, with the State Government failing to act on the regulatory front to this point.

"Both the New South Wales and South Australian governments have recently cracked down on odometer fraud, introducing free online odometer reading checks for consumers and substantive, non-discretionary fines respectively, and it is time our government followed suit.

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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“We are urgently calling on them to immediately overhaul the registration transfer process to prevent vehicles that are presented for transfer of ownership from being accepted where the odometer reading is inconsistent with a previous reading on that individual vehicle.

“It is clear that the current penalties in place are not a big enough deterrent for offenders, and quite honestly in most cases, barely constitute a slap on the wrist. Amid the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, it is the consumers and the licensed motor dealers who continue to wear the brunt of the cost of this crime and enough is enough.”

MTA Queensland will continue to work collaboratively with Government going forward to develop a plan for tackling odometer fraud in Queensland.

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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.

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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