



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urgent Investment Required as End-of-life Tyres Continue to Pile up

A recent fire that has taken hold in a waste management facility in the Port Lincoln region of South Australia serves as an urgent warning to Australian Governments to deal with the growing issue of end-of-life tyre management to avoid similar catastrophic events.

The fire, which was sparked during a heatwave in the region, was fueled by multiple storage tanks at a waste facility filled with end-of-life tyres and similar combustible materials, releasing severely toxic fumes into the atmosphere.

Unfortunately, multiple occurrences of used tyre stockpiles catching fire have been witnessed across Australia in recent years. Following the decision to ban the exportation of whole-baled tyres in 2021, making Australia the first country to ban the practice, the automotive industry has been left to deal with the estimated 26 million tyres that are sent to waste each year.

With severe weather events now regularly impacting across the country, combined with the rapidly growing number of used tyres lying idle in waste management centres, the Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) is urging Australian Governments to invest in the technology that safely and responsibly recycles end of life tyres.

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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“Since the ban came into effect, tyre piles are growing rapidly, as is the price for collecting and storage of the tyres. Prices have grown by 140% since the ban,” said MTA Queensland CEO Rod Camm.

“As a result, we are commonly seeing businesses having to store large numbers of these materials on-site for months at a time before they can be removed and taken to various stockpiles, leaving an eyesore and incredibly hazardous situation left largely unattended.

“And while legislation was introduced at the Federal level to abolish exportation, the issue of dealing with the fall-out and ensuring the safety of local communities has been left to the respective state governments.”

An Australian innovator has the solution to completely recycle and reuse the components from tyres. Green Distillation Technologies (GDT) has developed a technology that converts end-of-life tyres into sellable commodities including carbon, oil, and steel using a heat-based process that produces no emissions.

“The work of GDT is the first of its kind in Australia and has the potential to change how we view tyres as a recyclable commodity,” said Camm.

“Using nothing but destructive distillation, GDT can turn tyres stripped from old cars – whether that be a light commercial vehicle or a truck – into valuable oil, steel, and carbon that can be on-sold as raw materials.

“GDT need government support and access to crucial funding to enable them to establish operational capacity, whereby private market can invest with confidence, creating a genuine circular economy.”

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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

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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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