



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Federal Budget a win for automotive retail transition as sector undergoes rapid transformation

Australia's automotive retail sector is among the 2024-25 Federal Budget winners with a suite of new funding commitments aimed at preparing the industry for a cleaner energy future while driving new opportunities for small and medium businesses.

MTA Queensland CEO Rod Camm said the budget was a step in the right direction and highlighted the automotive sector's crucial role in supporting Australia's transition to electric vehicles (EVs).

"With the impending introduction of the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (NVES) and the anticipated rise in EV uptake, this year's budget demonstrates an understanding of the automotive sector's need for transitional support as it navigates a shifting business landscape," said Camm.

The budget commitment of \$60 million to assist automotive businesses install EV chargers at their premises is an important first step in getting dealers and repairers EV ready while driving private investment in this essential infrastructure.

In parallel, the \$84.5 million fund to implement the NVES with a new regulator and platform to administer the scheme will ensure the needs of the sector and government are met in a changing industry environment.

"The Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) and its state/territory bodies undertook intensive engagement with the Government in the lead up to the NVES finalisation as well as this budget, participating in more than 60 meetings this year alone."

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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“MTA Queensland, as a member of the MTAA, is pleased to see the budget incorporate support for skills and training, as well as funding for charging infrastructure and new training facilities.”

Federal Budget measures announced on Tuesday night of which the automotive industry stands to benefit include:

- \$10,000 in grants for apprentices working with EVs and wage subsidies for their employers
- \$50 million capital and equipment investment fund for facility upgrades to expand clean energy training capacity
- \$30 million for a clean energy teacher, trainer and assessor workforce
- \$1,500 in annual reimbursements for employers accessing Group Training Services for their clean energy apprentices
- \$55.6 million for the Building Women’s Careers program supporting women to enter male dominated industries and address critical skills shortages
- \$265.1 million to provide additional targeted support under the Australian Apprenticeship Incentive Scheme

In contrast, the budget highlights the continuing fee on Australian drivers through automotive taxes such as the Luxury Car Tax and Passenger Vehicle Tariff; outdated taxes from a time when Australia manufactured its vehicles.

“While this budget is certainly a step in the right direction, there is more work to be done to prepare Australia for an EV future and achieve it’s net zero goals,” said Camm.

“MTA Queensland will work alongside our national body and the Australian Government to ensure the automotive industry has the necessary regulations, expertise, equipment and facilities in place to support the widespread adoption of zero-emission vehicles.”

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

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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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