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## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# MTA Queensland Welcomes Expansion of New Energy Apprenticeships Program

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) welcomes the [announcement](#) from the Minister for Skills and Training, the Hon Brendan O'Connor MP, and the Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon Chris Bowen MP, on the expansion of the New Energy Apprenticeships Program to include the automotive sector.

The expansion of the scheme will broaden the eligibility for new energy apprentices and incentivise more individuals to pursue a career in clean energy, with up to \$10,000 in support available over the duration of their apprenticeship. Importantly, this includes apprentices learning to service electric vehicles (EVs), a rapidly growing fleet in Australia's economy.

MTA Queensland has previously called for a comprehensive package to support the automotive industry's transition to an electrified future and appreciates the Government's efforts in building the skills necessary to address the sector's issues.

MTA Group CEO Rod Camm said "This is a critical time for our industry, with new makes and models entering the market, it is important that Australia has a well-trained workforce to service, repair, and maintain electric vehicles. Including eligible automotive apprentices in the program is crucial to ensuring the government's plans to reduce the number of petrol and diesel cars on Australia's roads.

"Over 31,500\* battery electric vehicles have been sold in the first four months of the year, and with the Government's New Vehicle Efficiency Standard being introduced in 2025, we can expect the number of low- and zero-emission vehicles to continue growing. By ensuring the New Energy Apprentice support payments are available to a broader group of

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apprentices, the Federal Government is making strides to support Australia's future workforce."

While automotive electricians and technicians are included in the program, MTA Queensland encourages the Government to consider including all automotive occupations that currently work on electrified vehicles, such as motorcycle and collision repair technicians.

MTA Queensland acknowledges the work to date but notes there is still more to be done to support Australia's move to net zero. MTA Queensland will work alongside its members to understand the changes to the New Energy Apprenticeship Program and assist businesses and apprentices to access this essential support.

For more information about New Energy Apprentices, visit [www.apprenticeships.gov.au](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.au)

\*Source: April 2024 VFACTS, Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

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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 eco-system that supports innovation and research for the motor trades.

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