

Media Release

Auto industry scores government's Fuel Efficiency Standard 7 out of 10

- The Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) welcomes the Federal Government's release of its impact assessment on Australia's first Fuel Efficiency Standard.
- MTAA will work with the government on implementation details – especially to ensure settings allow for adequate supply of utes and commercial vehicles in the early years.
- MTAA calls for further apprentice and training support to service the two million electric vehicles forecast by 2030 and for the government to implement a fit for purpose Automotive Industry Code to ensure a smooth and fair transition.
- MTAA is the peak automotive industry association, representing over 3200 dealers, 7800 auto repairers and almost 10,000 apprentices.

4 February 2024 – The Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) – the largest representative of the automotive sector in Australia – welcomes the Federal Government's release of its Fuel Efficiency Standard impact assessment.

“The government has had to balance two extremes – the car companies and the single focused EV lobby. I cannot underestimate the difficulty in developing this standard. It has taken three governments and 12 years to reach this point. Nobody disagrees Australia needs to join the rest of the developed world with a standard to ensure we get our fair share of new technology and choice of electric vehicles,” said MTAA CEO Matt Hobbs.

“The whole industry knows putting in place a fuel efficiency standard is the right way to go. The argument is just about the fine details. We score the government a seven out of 10, so far. Some adjustments are needed in the early years, especially in the treatment of utes. I am confident we can work with the government to ensure they get a perfect mark.”

MTAA's members are the largest providers of talent to the automotive industry. It's vital, as the government implements a fuel efficiency standard, that it partners with industry to get the workforce in place to support the EV transition.

“As stakeholders resolve EV supply and range issues in Australia, the next challenge is to implement the required workforce. EVs are cutting-edge technology and as such need a highly trained Australian workforce. A good first step is to make more apprentices eligible for the New Energy Apprentices Program,” said Mr Hobbs

MTAA is concerned not all car companies will make the transition. The huge technology shift brings opportunities but also risks for Australian small businesses and automotive workers who can lose their investment and livelihoods at the whim of international car companies in offshore headquarters.

Australian automotive workers and small businesses need the Albanese government to have their back in this period of change with an Automotive Industry Code of Conduct to protect workers who are at the mercy of multinational companies.

“The future of the global auto industry is the industrial version of the *Hunger Games* – played in boardrooms far from Australia. It is imperative the government develops an Automotive Industry Code to give Australian workers and businesses a fair go,” said Mr Hobbs.

MTAA will shortly provide a detailed submission to the Federal Government on the impact of its preferred option.

MOTOR TRADES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Representing the retail automotive industries throughout Australia

OUR MEMBERS

MTAA members sell, service, repair, fuel and maintain Australia's 21.2 million strong motor vehicle fleet.

3,253 <small>Auto dealers</small>	219 <small>Auto dismantlers & recyclers</small>
7,893 <small>Auto repairers & accessories</small>	726 <small>Farm & industrial machinery dealers</small>
1,762 <small>Body repairers & towing operators</small>	279 <small>Service stations & convenience stores</small>
405 <small>Motorcycle dealers</small>	1,196 <small>Tyre dealers</small>

OUR PURPOSE

The leading national voice for the Australian automotive sector

- Educate & inform government & industry
- Lead the policy discussion on issues impacting automotive
- Present a unified industry voice into government
- Shape the future direction of the automotive sector
- Provide national services to the retail automotive industry
- Develop a skilled, informed & customer-focused workforce

OUR SERVICES

Supporting our members run better businesses in the face of structural change

- OH&S & legal advice
- Workplace & industrial relations
- Publications, research & technical library
- Commercial solutions to industry
- Apprenticeship training & support

MTAA members create a career path into the auto industry

7,165 **1,394**

Apprentices undertaking training Apprentices directly employed

OUR INDUSTRY

The motor trades sector is a critical backbone of the Australian economy

- \$39.35 billion¹**
GDP contribution p.a.
- 2.1%¹**
of Australia's GDP
- 97%¹**
small & family-owned enterprises
- 762,777¹**
Vehicles scrapped
- 1,216,780²**
New vehicles sold
- 2,074,535³**
Used vehicles sold

^[1] MTAA Directions In Australia's Automotive Industry - An industry report 2021
^[2] VFACTS 2023
^[3] AutoGrab 2023

WHO WE REPRESENT

MTAA is a federation of various state and territory motor trades associations and automobile chambers of commerce

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