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## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **MTAQ Calls for Urgent Action to Address Broken Approved Inspection Station (AIS) Scheme**

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) has expressed profound disappointment regarding the recent announcement by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), which has revealed plans to proceed with mandatory training for both new and existing members of the Approved Inspection Station (AIS) scheme, effective from November 1, 2024.

MTA Queensland is alarmed by the lack of consultation with industry stakeholders in the decision to proceed and urges the department to take a comprehensive view of the system as a whole. The AIS scheme is broken, and any training needs to be part of a broader regulatory reform to take action against the dodgy members of the scheme.

“Introducing the training program based on a flawed scheme makes no sense; training was an opportunity to educate industry on all elements of a reformed scheme. While we appreciate the funding of the program, we urge the government to deliver on their promise of a thorough review of all components of the AIS, including this training initiative,” said Rod Camm, MTA Group CEO.

For years, MTA Queensland has been a staunch advocate for reforming the AIS scheme to eliminate unscrupulous practices that not only jeopardise the integrity of reputable businesses but also pose risks to the safety of Queenslanders. Our involvement in extensive discussions regarding both training and the overall framework of the scheme underscores our commitment to these reforms.

#### **Motor Trades Association of Queensland**

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In July, Minister Mellish announced the formation of a dedicated taskforce to investigate issues related to non-compliant safety certificates - an initiative that MTA Queensland welcomed, expecting it would shed light on the shortcomings of the existing system and any changes would then be supported by a training program.

“It defies logic that government would offer to fund training before the findings of their own taskforce, which will make further changes. Our members remain deeply concerned that this new training requirement will not effectively address the fundamental issues plaguing the scheme. MTA Queensland strongly opposes this one-size-fits-all approach and is advocating for more rigorous measures to penalise deficiencies within the system,” Rod added.

“With this decision poised to impact many Queenslanders, MTA Queensland urges the department to pause the rollout of mandatory training until the findings of the AIS taskforce have been thoroughly reviewed and considered. We believe that a comprehensive understanding of a reformed AIS scheme is essential to ensure both the safety of the public and the integrity of the industry.”

\*\*\*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 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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