

Media Release

Driving forward: MTAA releases Election Blueprint for a sustainable automotive future

22 July 2024 – The Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) has unveiled its Election Blueprint today, outlining urgent support measures for the retail automotive sector ahead of the upcoming federal election.

With the election scheduled within the next 12 months, MTAA is proactively advocating for a range of initiatives from skills support to assistance with adjusting to the growth of electric vehicles (EVs).

The automotive industry stands at a pivotal point, requiring assistance to effectively adapt to significant changes, such as the upcoming introduction of fuel efficiency standards in 2025. While proactively preparing for an EV future, the sector faces critical challenges that require government attention.

A primary concern is addressing growing skills shortages that jeopardise the ability of automotive retailers to meet the needs of Australian drivers as they embrace zero and low emission vehicles (ZLEVs).

Moreover, correcting the power imbalance between the typically small to medium businesses that make up the automotive retail sector and corporate entities, including multinational automotive companies and insurers, needs to be treated as a priority.

On the consumer front, a comprehensive review of federal automotive taxes is needed to ensure fairness and support the transition to ZLEVs, including reviewing the luxury car tax (LCT), fringe benefits tax (FBT), and road user charging.

The MTAA Election Blueprint highlights 10 strategic priorities:

1. Expanding automotive skills and training support
2. Updating and reinforcing the Motor Vehicle Insurance and Repair Industry Code of Conduct
3. Ensuring fair and effective implementation of the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard
4. Supporting automotive businesses and apprentices to invest in EV equipment and tooling
5. Strengthening the Franchising Code of Conduct
6. Enhancing consumer protection measures under the Australian Consumer Law
7. Undertaking automotive tax reforms
8. Establishing an end-of-life vehicle program
9. Expanding the Motor Vehicle Service and Repair Information Sharing Scheme
10. Establishing a National Approved Vehicle Examiners Scheme

Matt Hobbs, CEO of the MTAA, emphasised the automotive sector's pivotal role in the Australian economy, noting its extensive history of contributions to national culture, employment, and economic vitality and the sector's ongoing need for support to sustain its positive impact.

"The MTAA Election Blueprint outlines crucial measures to support the automotive industry during this pivotal time of transition. We urge all political parties to consider these proposals seriously to ensure a sustainable future for Australian automotive businesses."

Mr Hobbs also underscored the sector's readiness to play a critical role in Australia's transition to net zero.

"Our industry stands ready to drive the transition to net zero emissions, leveraging innovation and sustainable practices to shape a cleaner future for all Australians. Collectively, the initiatives outlined in the Blueprint will help us achieve this goal," he said.

Developed through extensive consultations with state and territory motor trade associations and their members, the MTAA Election Blueprint offers practical recommendations to support automotive retailers during this transformative phase.

The MTAA looks forward to collaborating with the incoming government, opposition and crossbench members to realise these proposals and bolster the industry's evolution toward a sustainable future.

The MTAA Election Blueprint is available at the MTAA website: https://www.mtaa.com.au/images/MediaReleases/MTAA_Election_Blueprint_2024.pdf

ENDS

Matt Hobbs

Chief Executive Officer

Motor Trades Association of Australia

0419 608 845 | matt.hobbs@mtaa.com.au | mtaa.com.au