



A message from the CEO

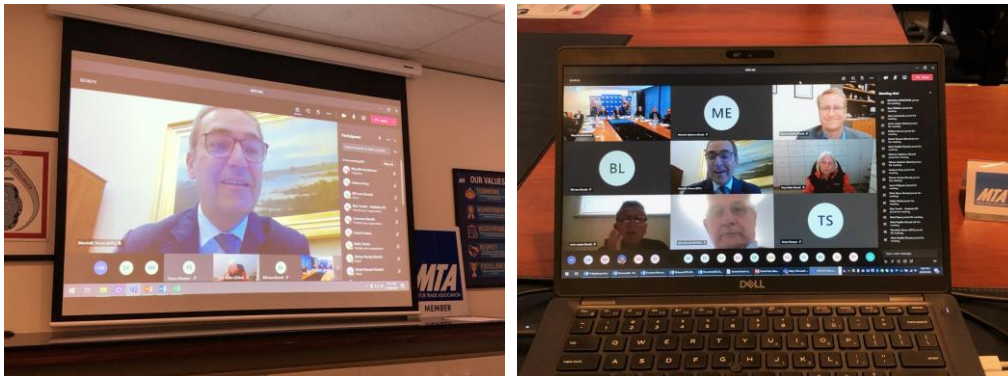
COVID-19 Update 25/09

Annual General Meeting and Industry Advisory Council Meeting

On Tuesday we held the Motor Trade Association of South Australia's 94th Annual General Meeting as well as the inaugural Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting, with a mix of in person and online attendees.

At the AGM, due to the current COVID restrictions, the AEC were not able to complete the election process and declare the seven nominees into the seven open positions under our new Rules. The current transitional Board will therefore continue, with Tom Skothos from Pro Paint 'n Panel, who was the seventh nominee, being seconded to fill the casual vacancy left by the seventh open position.

We were fortunate to have the Premier, the Hon Steven Marshall MP, attend the IAC meeting online and speak to the challenges in responding to COVID-19, as well as the plan for the South Australian economy moving forward. IAC members also had the opportunity to ask questions of the Premier.



Vehicle inspections were discussed in detail with input from across MTA divisions and zones. Light vehicle inspections at change of ownership were broadly agreed to, with the MTA now having a clear direction in its advocacy to government.

Heavy vehicle inspections discussion reinforced the importance of industry being involved in Stage 1 change of ownership inspections. For Stage 2 periodic inspections, members wanted the MTA to work at a national level with the NHVR to make sure industry's concerns are recognised. It was also agreed that a sub-committee would convene to discuss periodic inspections in further detail.

The IAC will play a critical part in shaping the MTA's policy and advocacy efforts moving forward and we look forward to hosting even more IAC members in person at the next meeting.

Meeting with the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Road Safety

Yesterday I had the opportunity to attend Parliament House and meet with the new Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Road Safety, the Hon Vincent Tarzia MP, and introduce him to the issues currently facing the automotive industry.

We covered a range of topics such as light vehicle inspections, the Graduated Licensing Scheme and RiderSafe training, as well as ongoing opportunities for the MTA to work more closely with SAPOL for the benefit of the automotive industry at large.



Report tabled - Inquiry into Motor Vehicle Insurance and Repair Industry in SA

On 24 September, after more than a year of considering and hearing evidence, the Economic and Finance Committee tabled its [Report on the Inquiry into the Motor Vehicle Insurance and Repair Industry in SA](#).

The MTA is still working through the Committee's findings but, at a broad level, can advise that it has made 11 recommendations aimed at increasing transparency, consumer choice and awareness across the motor vehicle insurance and repair industry, while maintaining consumer safety by ensuring that all motor vehicles repaired as part of insurance claims are restored to their pre-accident condition. It is pleasing to see that the Committee has recommended introducing legislation to mandate the Code of Conduct in South Australia.

The Committee also makes a number of recommendations aimed at working towards a nationally consistent, mandatory, Code of Conduct that includes robust and binding dispute resolution processes, with suitable financial penalties for breaches to ensure compliance by all parties.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the Body Repair Division members who took the time to get involved with the Inquiry and made their voice heard.

The report is now in the hands of the Parliament and the next step will be advocating to all sides of Government to accept the recommendations to mandate the Code of Conduct along with a binding mediation process and appropriate financial penalties for breaches.

Congratulations on your retirement, Michael Sheehan

After more than ten years with the MTA, and extensive time with numerous other employer organisations including Business SA, Michael Sheehan will today retire from his role as Senior Workplace Advisor with the MTA. Michael has been a welcome, calming and friendly voice for many members, adding in the occasional stern direction to those members who are not doing the right thing with regard to their employees. His experience and wealth of knowledge will be sadly missed, and we wish him all the best in his retirement.



Inquiry into the relationship between Australian car dealers and overseas car manufacturers

The Senate Education and Employment Committee has this week called for a full inquiry into the relationship between overseas car Manufacturers and Australian car Dealers. Executives of all major multinational car companies will have their relationships with local independent car dealers scrutinised as part of the inquiry.

The MTA welcomes the latest inquiry, and recognises the anxiety that industry has regarding other car manufacturers and distributors making moves to change business and product sale and distribution models impacting dealer networks. There is clearly an unacceptable power imbalance between Australian car dealers and the multinational car Manufacturers to which they are franchised.

There has also been much discussion about the draft principles guiding work towards the franchising code of conduct for new car dealers. Our national body the MTAA shares concerns raised by others that the draft principles are proposed as voluntary only and it is our view that they should be mandatory. It is important to note that negotiations are ongoing and the MTAA is continuing to work collaboratively with Industry Minister Karen Andrews and her Department towards this goal.

Re-opening on the SA/NSW border

In good news, the South Australian border with New South Wales reopened yesterday. This means people entering South Australia from New South Wales will no longer need to quarantine for 14 days. The move creates positive business and tourism opportunities, and we look forward to seeing more people moving through our great State again, leading to more repair, servicing and retail work.

The AFL Finals are also soon upon us. Carn the Power!

Regards
Paul Unerkov
MTA SA/NT CEO



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