



A message from the CEO

COVID-19 Update 11/09



Following an easing of COVID-19 restrictions in South Australia last weekend, government officials are now hinting that border restrictions with NSW and the ACT may also be lifted by the upcoming school holidays.

With regard to Victoria, SA Police Commissioner, Grant Stevens, has said that Victoria's success in fighting its second wave of COVID-19 infections gave authorities "the latitude to more actively consider exemptions" but warned against letting "optimism cloud our understanding of the actual circumstances as they are today." This is good advice. The reality is we still face a risk of COVID-19 finding its way into our community and we need to be ready to respond if that does occur.

As the fight against COVID-19 continues, industry reports are showing that new car sales continue to struggle. At a national level, sales are down 34% year-on-year, however the real impact of COVID-19 is revealed in Victoria, where sales experienced a 66% decline on August 2019.

Locally we have fared better, with sales down 11% and motorcycle sales showing strong growth. Used sales are also performing well, up 13% compared to this time last year, but dealers are telling us they still have concerns around future stock availability.

Inquiry into Essential Production and Supply Chain Security

The MTA has this week provided input into the Parliament of South Australia's Economic and Finance Committee's Inquiry into the impact of emergency circumstances, such as COVID-19, on essential production and supply chains in South Australia.

Our members have told us that border restrictions and the stage four lock down in Victoria has been particularly disruptive in the national movement of parts, accessories and stock, and this inquiry is valuable opportunity to help government respond to existing supply chain issues, while planning for the future.

MTA Industry Advisory Council Meeting

The inaugural meeting of the MTA's Industry Advisory Council (IAC) is fast approaching, and I am pleased to share with you that the Premier, Hon Steven Marshall MP, will be joining our divisional and zone representatives online. This will be a great opportunity to hear from the Premier about the Government's response to COVID-19 in South Australia and the road map out towards recovery.

Divisional and Zone Chairs and Divisional Deputy Chairs will be provided with full IAC meeting papers next week, ahead of the meeting on Tuesday, 22 September.

R U OK Day

Yesterday was R U OK Day and the theme this year was '[There's more to say after R U OK](#)'.

As the importance of mental health becomes more visible and we break down the stigma that surrounds it, R U OK Day reminds us to look out for one another, reach out by starting a conversation and checking in with a follow up.

It's also worth remembering that as an MTA member you and your employees receive a discounted rate of \$135 per session for the [Access Employee Assistance Program](#).

Extension of Commercial Tenancy Eviction Moratorium

The State Government has this week announced it plans to extend the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act for a further six months. The extension of the Act means that small and medium commercial tenants affected by the COVID-19 crisis cannot be evicted from their premises for non-payment of rent.

For commercial lease agreements, the moratorium will be in place until 3 January, but the Government has reserved its right to extend for a further three months if it deems it is needed. As part of the scheme, landlords and tenants are expected to negotiate lease arrangements in good faith, and if there is a dispute, the Small Business Commissioner can be called in to mediate.

Enjoy the weekend, and as always, I'm here to chat on any issue that is important to you. I'm happy for you to reach me on my mobile - 0419 814 642.

Regards
Paul Unerkov
MTA SA/NT CEO

