



A message from the CEO

COVID-19 Update 29/05

This week has seen the lifting of many of the recent restrictions with cafes, pubs and restaurants seeing more customers allowed through their doors.

June 1 sees the next significant step in our COVID-19 recovery process with many more businesses preparing to open.

Social distancing and increased hygiene rules still apply, but it is pleasing that the easing of restrictions has been brought forward ahead of the June long weekend.

Last chance - \$10,000 Emergency Cash Grant for Small Businesses

Applications for the State Government's \$10,000 cash grant close on **Monday 1 June**. Don't miss out.

Small businesses that employ South Australians who have been highly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible to apply for the grant.

[Apply Now by clicking here.](#)

Instant Asset Write-Offs

Today the Federal government has answered some of the commonly asked question for the instant asset write-off expansion.



Instant asset write-off expansion

How it applies to vehicles

We've received a number of questions about how the instant asset write-off expansion applies to vehicles, so we've answered some common questions and provided examples to help you get it right.

For more information about instant asset write-off visit ato.gov.au/instantassetwriteoff or speak with your registered tax agent.

Does the instant asset write-off threshold apply equally to all vehicles?

No. A *car limit* applies to passenger vehicles (except motor cycles or similar vehicles) designed to carry a load less than one tonne and fewer than nine passengers. The *car limit* is \$57,581 for the 2019–20 income tax year.

The *car limit* does not apply to vehicles fitted out for use by people with disability.

For those of our members selling to businesses that may be eligible, caution needs to be exercised. The eligibility criteria can be complex, and so sales people should be instructed not to advise potential customers they will be eligible, and encourage them to seek advice from their own accountant or tax advisor to ensure eligibility.

[Click here to download the information and pass on to your sales staff.](#)

As a precaution, the following disclaimer should be included on sales documentation “We are not financial or taxation advisors, and you should ensure you obtain your own independent expert advice as to your eligibility or otherwise for the instant asset write-off or any other tax concession or deduction.”

If you would like further clarification on this program, please [click here](#).

JobMaker Announcement

The Prime Minister this week has announced the Government’s JobMaker plan, aimed at boosting employment as businesses work their way out of the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The aim of the JobMaker plan will be to “reset” the Australian economy ready for growth.

The full details of the plan have not yet been unveiled, but the MTA understands that the plan will overhaul vocational training systems, as well as reworking industrial relations. The MTA will engage with the Federal Government on these issues, and will work closely with our national and interstate counterparts to promote the interests of the motor trade industry during the development of the JobMaker plan.

With regard to any industrial relations changes, at this initial stage it is understood that unions, employers and government will work together, forming five working groups. They will review awards, enterprise bargaining agreements, casual work, union and employer misconduct and greenfields – agreements that set flat wages and conditions throughout the lifetime of a construction project.

Funding requests for Members

We still have requests in with DPTI and the EPA through the Business and Jobs Support Fund on behalf of members in our Automotive Dismantlers, Service Station, and Independent Bus and Coach divisions.

The MTA has also made a submission to the State Government, as part of its \$650 million Jobs Rescue Package, seeking relief from EPA fees. We are awaiting a response from the Government.

We continue to advocate to Government on behalf of industry, seeking a reduction in business expenses where possible and recommending customer stimulus programs.

Agricultural machinery: After-sales markets

The MTA has this week provided input into the Motor Trades Association of Australia’s (MTAA) submission to the ACCC regarding its discussion paper, *Agricultural machinery: After-*

sales markets.

The discussion paper considers concerns that have been raised with the ACCC, including that access to independent agricultural machinery repairs is limited; farmers may lack recourse in the event of a problem with their machinery; agreements between manufacturers and dealers may limit access to repairs; and data ownership and management may raise privacy and competition issues

The MTA appreciates the assistance of FIMDA members in formulating our contribution the discussion around issues in the agricultural machinery industry.

Award updates

The Vehicle Repair, Services and Retail Award 2020, and the Clerks – Private Sector Award 2020 will commence operation from today Friday 29 May 2020, delayed from their initial commencement date.

A copy of the new Awards, as well as updated Wage Schedules referencing the new clause numbers, will be available on the MTA member site.

[Click here](#) to contact the Workplace Relations Team for more information or assistance.

Open for Business – spread the word

With the economy starting to open up again and customers returning to bricks and mortar stores, the automotive industry is to be congratulated for remaining strong during these unprecedented economic times.

With increased activity in the retail and service sectors we all need to play our role to communicate that 'Auto is Open for Business'. Let's spread the word!

Regards
Paul Unerkov
MTA SA / NT CEO

