



## A message from the CEO

### **CEO Update 6/11**

There are some encouraging signs locally, with VFACTS reporting that new-car sales for October 2020 are up 14.5% in South Australia against the national average which is down 1.5%.

This is likely as a result of both increased sales orders and increased stock from back orders. A healthy supply of stock is critical for its flow through to other sectors of the automotive industry and it is my hope that this trend can continue.

### **State Budget 2020-21**

Next week on Tuesday 10 November, the SA Government will unveil its delayed State Budget for 2020-21.

The MTA has been invited to attend the Budget lock-up, giving us first access to this year's Budget Papers so we can bring you the announcements, changes and measures which matter to the automotive industry.

We are hoping to see continued support for apprenticeships, a focus on skill shortages and measures which will see the cost of business reduced and made easier, such as an extension of the current payroll tax waivers and deferrals, as well as land tax relief.

### **Right to Repair Draft Legislation**

We are pleased to see the Federal Government last week commit to providing draft Right to Repair legislation for consultation in the coming weeks, as well as \$250,000 for the establishment of an industry led organisation to facilitate fair access to repair information at a fair price.

The Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) has been active in progressing these complex negotiations with input from automotive businesses across the country and we will be reaching out to you for your input once the draft legislation is available for review.

### **ACCC Exclusive dealing notification – Mitsubishi Motors 10 year warranty**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is currently in the process of considering Mitsubishi Motors' response to issues raised in the public consultation to its exclusive dealing notification for its advertised 10-year/200,000km warranty.

---

While extended warranties in general represent a good outcome for consumers, [our submission through our national body, the Motor Trades Association of Australia \(MTAA\)](#) raises questions about the nature of the inclusion of exclusive dealing conditions.

We expect the ACCC to make their determination by the end of the month and we will update members as soon as a decision is made.

### **Meeting with the new Minister for Regional Development**

On Monday I met with the new Minister for Regional Development, Hon David Basham MP to provide an automotive industry briefing which highlighted the important work we are doing in training apprentices in regional areas and our commitment to regional industry, particularly in heavy vehicle and agriculture.

I also used this meeting as an opportunity to highlight Recommendation 6 of the [Economic & Finance Committee's Report on the Motor Vehicle Insurance and Repair Industry in SA](#), which would introduce a legislative requirement that insurance policies allow for vehicle repairs to be undertaken by a crash repairer located within a reasonable distance of a regional customer's home address.

Concerns were also raised regarding recent changes to skilled migration pathways for mechanics and panelbeaters, and the difficulties that regional and rural businesses have in finding and retaining skilled automotive technicians.

### **Half-century for Varricchio's Crash Repairs**

The strength of the MTA is in the experience, knowledge and history of our membership. This week it was my honour to congratulate Varricchio's Crash Repairs on 50 years of membership with the MTA.



## South Australia's Road Safety Strategy to 2031

Earlier this week, we provided our submission in response to the Government's Issues Paper: [South Australia's Road Safety Strategy to 2031](#) which expressed disappointment that the issue of roadworthiness was not highlighted as an area for consideration in the development of a new Road Safety Strategy.

Our submission calls on the State Government to implement a light vehicle inspection scheme at change of ownership, which will unquestionably deliver safer vehicles on our roads and a material reduction in the deaths and serious injuries on our roads. We will be eager to receive and provide feedback on the Draft Strategy and hope the State Government listens to our concerns regarding the important role of roadworthiness.

Regards  
Paul Unerkov  
MTA SA/NT CEO



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)



[MTA of SA/NT](#)



[MTA Automotive Apprentices](#)



[Email](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[YouTube](#)

---