



A message from the CEO

CEO Update 23/10

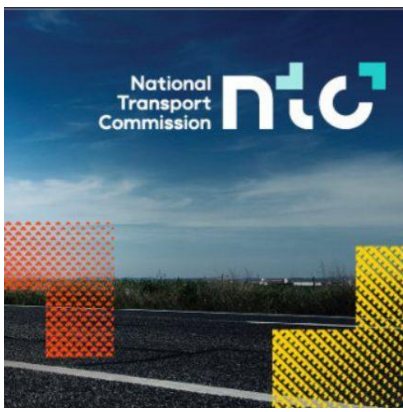
This week I had the opportunity to catch up online with the MTA's Divisional and Zone Chairs to get an update on the state of the South Australian automotive industry and the issues that businesses are facing. This feedback is invaluable as it keeps us informed of the state of the market and the issues that we need to address and raise with the Premier's Industry Response and Recovery Council.

A consistent theme I am hearing is that trade levels are still unpredictable. Business activity may be frenzied one week and then quiet the next, and forecasting for this can be difficult as we adjust to the new normal. Stock shortages remains a significant issue for retail and repair, whether its cars, parts, motorcycles or tyres.

Stock in the automotive industry is receiving national attention and was the focus of an ABC News story late last week, [click here](#) to read the article.

We are also hearing that the cost of stock is increasing, so while the automotive industry may be faring better than some sectors of the economy, members are finding that they may not be able to achieve their full potential.

Staff shortages and availability is another issue and with the increase to the JobSeeker payment, it is becoming more difficult to find and employ new staff. While the supplement has reduced, members are reporting that it continues to hinder people's motivation to find paid work. This is an issue we will continue to raise with Government as it reviews its COVID-19 support measures.



Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) Review

The MTA has today provided its submission to the National Transport Commission in response to its HVNL Review Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS). In conjunction with members, the MTA took an in-depth look at the policy options for the future HVNL outlined in the Consultation RIS, and provided feedback in the policy areas of duties; regulatory tools; technology and data; assurance; fatigue; access; and roadworthiness.

MTA staff have also participated this week in the Department for Infrastructure and Transport's (DIT) Heavy Vehicle Reference Group. A special meeting was held on the HVNL Review Consultation RIS, and was another opportunity for the MTA to provide its feedback to on this major reform item.

ACCC Class Exemption for Collective Bargaining

In positive news, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) yesterday announced a class exemption will commence in early 2021 that will allow small businesses, franchisees and fuel retailers to collectively bargain with their suppliers and processors, franchisor or fuel wholesaler respectively, without first having to seek ACCC approval.



This is a significant development for a large number of the MTA's divisions whether it is new vehicle dealers, franchised repairers, service stations or other retail businesses.

We have long argued to Government that a power imbalance exists in the franchise model and we are pleased to see that the ACCC announcement means that many automotive businesses will have improved access to streamlined processes to come together and collectively negotiate with often powerful companies.

[Click here](#) to read the ACC announcement and [here](#) to read an MTAA Member Brief.



MTA on the airwaves

On Wednesday evening, MTA Industry Engagement Specialist, Nathan Groves, and Motorcycle Industry Association Chair, Mark Flynn were special guests on Coast FM's 'Motochat' segment to discuss the effects of COVID-19 on the motorcycle industry.

It was a great opportunity to chat about the resilience of the motorcycle industry through the pandemic and the challenges being faced with supply chain issues now and into the future.

Enjoy the weekend!

Regards
Paul Unerkov
MTA SA/NT CEO

