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**Opening Speech  
Mr Neville Gibb President MTAA Limited  
Australian Automotive National Summit**

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**Thank you Steve (Cannane – Master of Ceremonies)**

**Treasurer Hockey, Senators Madigan, Muir and Xenophon,  
Industry Leaders, ladies and gentlemen.**

**Welcome to the Australian Automotive National Summit 2015  
and thank you speakers, panellists, and all of you, for  
committing your valuable time and resources to participating.**

**Can I also acknowledge Industry and Science Minister  
Macfarlane, and Shadow Industry Minister Kim Carr who will  
be presenting here tomorrow.**

**Contrary to popular belief, the Australian automotive industry does not end with the final closure of vehicle manufacturing in 2017.**

**More than 340,000 Australians will remain employed in businesses keeping a fleet of more than 20 million vehicles moving, contributing more than \$38billion to the national economy, and ensuring Australians remain mobile and connected, and a nation's reliance on road transport assured.**

**The inaugural Australian Automotive National Summit is unashamedly a condensed talkfest,**

**But with a difference – everyone talks - and everyone works.**

## **We are asking that you work by:**

- **participating;**
- **expressing your views on the matters being discussed;**
- **bringing attention to other matters not canvassed;**
- **making sure your voice is heard,**
- **helping others to increase their awareness and improve their understanding of our industry, the challenges, the opportunities; and**
- **identify and agree the requirements, the needs, the accountabilities, the role of a revitalised, vibrant and sustainable industry that continues to meet the needs of Australians and a nation reliant on road transport and this - our automotive industry.**

**But it is not just the work over the next 10 hours as we hear from, and interact with, more than 30 speakers and panellists, representing one of the most significant gatherings of the automotive, political and policy communities ever assembled.**

**The work does not end when the final session closes tomorrow afternoon.**

**The Motor Trades Association of Australia is committed to working beyond this Summit throughout the remainder of 2015 and beyond.**

**We will continue to facilitate, to coordinate. We also need to work collaboratively, cohesively and harmoniously on a future investigations, future actions and future requirements, - Next week - Next month - Next year as the Australian Automotive Industry prepares and embraces the next phase of its lifecycle.**

**We all know how complex this industry is.**

**We all know just how fast the technology is now being applied and the many and varied issues currently or potentially impacting the future of the Australian automotive industry, and sectors within it.**

**The future of the automotive industry is extraordinary – exciting – thought provoking – and potentially life changing.**

**Things once considered the stuff of wild imaginations and creativity beyond understanding are now, or soon to be, reality.**

**What future generations will possess in terms of mobility transport and connectivity choice is truly amazing.**

**But so too are the challenges and the difficulties these exciting developments are creating for many automotive sectors including:**

- **the rapid application of new technologies**
- **consolidation of traditional sectors and their operating environments**
- **changes in supply chains**
- **heightened competition**
- **new materials, interfaces, and construction techniques**
- **the convergence of mobility and information technology**
- **new operating environments such as driverless cars and car sharing.**

**These and many other inputs and influences are stretching the capability of the sectors to adapt fast enough; to identify and have the right options for future training and skills development; to properly tool and equip; to access the information.**

**MTAA Limited and its predecessor, the Australian Motor Industry Federation, investigated these issues and found that most sectors were already experiencing unprecedented and generational change that in some cases was fundamentally changing the face of that sector and its service offerings to consumers.**

**A little over two years ago we launched our findings and our call to action, titled 'Industry at Crossroads'.**

**Since then the Federation, State and Territory Motor Trades Associations and Automobile Chambers of Commerce members, have been working tirelessly to improve the understanding of the thousands of members across the country of these changes and take action to help them prepare for the future.**

**We lobbied and advocated hard for recognition by government of these changes and their implications on the automotive industry and ultimately on consumers.**

**We made constant representations for government to investigate a proper future policy framework and we worked to obtain a Senate Inquiry into the Whole of the Automotive Industry.**

**But we also recognise we cannot do it in isolation. So many of the critical issues facing our members and the majority of the automotive industry participants are impacted by all parts of the supply chain and indeed those who legislate and regulate the automotive industry.**

**It is why we came to the conclusion that we needed to facilitate an opportunity, for all of the industry and those connected with it to start the process. To take the conversations forward and to reignite the passion for an industry that has been and will continue to be the cornerstone of our nation's development, our connectivity and our community.**

**An enormous amount of planning, organisation and preparation has taken place to stage this Summit, mostly from the efforts of our CEO Richard Dudley and the MTAA team. Thank you Richard.**



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**On behalf of the Board, Members, and businesses of the Motor Trades Association of Australia family,..... welcome.**