

AUSTRALIAN AUTOMOTIVE NATIONAL SUMMIT



THE FUTURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY
19–20 AUGUST 2015 | HOTEL REALM CANBERRA

The Hon. Senator Kim Carr – Shadow Minister for Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Industry, Shadow Minister Assisting the Leader for Science

Kim Carr opened his keynote address to Australian Automotive National Summit attendees by paying tribute to the MTAA Limited for ‘the hard work in coordinating this event.’

Events that have occurred have highlighted that it is not so much what you know but what you don’t know. There are new areas of the industry open for discovery and it is important that the breadth of the industry is understood.

Senator Carr is concerned that discussion around the future of the automotive industry has a use by date at the cessation of the Automotive Transformation Scheme and stressed that despite manufacturing closures, there will still be an automotive industry in Australia.

The scale of this industry and its scope will depend on the Government. New business models, relationships between industry and government, smarter automotive policies (whether by taxation, competition etc.) must develop along with the governments understanding of how they can better assist the industry.

Senator Carr acknowledged that this is not a stand-alone view: it is indeed a wide spread view across the industry.

‘...do know that the automotive industry matters to voters. We saw that in last year’s Victorian election. Industry commissioned polling undertaken by Newspoll after that election found that 17 per cent of voters in the crucial sand-belt electorates in Melbourne’s south-east had switched from the Coalition because of cuts to the Automotive Transformation Scheme.’ He said.

Senator Carr ended his address in saying ‘I have never wavered in my belief that there can be a prosperous future for the automotive industry in this country.

I maintain that view and I look forward to working with you on Labor’s future automotive policy.’