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# Media Release

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## MTAA welcomes class exemption for collective bargaining

MTAA and Members welcome today's announcement by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to provide a class exemption for collective bargaining.

The announcement follows calls by the MTAA and Members for improved and simplified access to collective bargaining processes as a step in providing more options for small businesses to address power imbalances evident in several automotive industries.

MTAA CEO Richard Dudley says the class exemption will allow small businesses to collectively negotiate with their suppliers without first having to seek ACCC approval

'This will include franchisees such as car, motorcycle and farm machinery dealers with franchisor manufacturers and fuel retailers with fuel wholesalers governed by the Franchising and Oil Codes of Conduct' he said.

'Mr Dudley said the ACCC announcement means many automotive businesses will, if they choose, have improved, access to streamlined processes to come together and collectively negotiate with often powerful companies. But legal protection from potential breaches of competition provisions of the *Competition and Consumer Act (Cth) 2010* is still assured.

'Many impediments to small business utilising collective bargaining processes, including requirements to provide extensive documentation and costs, have been removed by this action and MTAA congratulates the ACCC on the initiative.' he added.

MTAA believes there will be strong interest from businesses across automotive sector industries including franchised car, farm and industrial machinery and motorcycle dealers and mechanical and motor body repair businesses when the exemption becomes available early in 2021.

MTAA said the announcement by the ACCC is a further improvement to the legislative and regulatory framework for the automotive sector and another success for MTAA and Member Association's advocacy work and representations.

**Further Information:** <https://www.accc.gov.au/media-release/class-exemption-will-enable-small-businesses-to-collectively-bargain>

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### MTAA Member Associations



### MTAA National Industry Committees

