



PO Box 6298
Kingston ACT 2604
Phone: 02 6233 0800
Fax: 02 6273 9399
Email: admin@amif.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Australian Automotive National Summit

More than 30 prominent speakers and panellists are in final preparations for the inaugural Australian Automotive National Summit in Canberra tomorrow and Thursday.

MTAA Limited President, Mr Neville Gibb, says the Summit is one of the largest and most comprehensive gatherings of political, policy, regulatory, automotive industry participants, associations, and connected industry representatives ever assembled in Australia.

'The ongoing significance and importance of the Australian automotive industry is reflected by the commitment of these leaders and participants to over 10 hours of concentrated discussion and analysis of the challenges, future opportunities and requirements of an industry preparing for the future', Mr Gibb said.

'The automotive industry does not come to an end with the closure of domestic car manufacturing in 2017.

'There will be more than 340,000 Australians working in approximately 90,000 manufacturing, engineering, design, service, fuel, repair, recycling, aftermarket and many other automotive related businesses. They will continue to keep a fleet of more than 20 million vehicles moving, contribute more than \$38billion to the national economy, ensure Australians remain mobile and connected and assure a nation's reliance on road transport', Mr Gibb said.

'However, there are many challenges to address, many opportunities to identify and seize, and significant planning and actions to be undertaken by industry and government', he added.

Mr Gibb said the Summit provides the opportunity for exploration of the issues and exposure to the thinking of innovators, futurists, those developing new products, new technologies, policy making and new service delivery models.

The MTAA has developed key objectives, themes, and potential future work programs to assist its thinking, that of its members, their constituents, other industry organisations, government, and work of the current Senate Committee inquiry into the automotive industry and sectors within it.

Mr Gibb said while past policy had necessarily focussed on domestic car and component manufacturing, it had largely failed to recognise the industry as a whole and the significant structural changes occurring in other sectors, and that a fresh approach, partnerships, and future oriented policy framework are required.

The outcomes sought are a communiqué containing agreed principles or recommendations from the whole of industry on critical issues and approaches to deal with them in a new industry and government partnership.

Further information: Richard Dudley - CEO Motor Trades Association of Australia 0412 146 828