

MEDIA RELEASE **29 April 2019**

The next Federal Government must get real, listen and engage industry to fill the current automotive skills shortage of 35,000 positions and plan

Australia's greatest mobility risk is filling the current 35,000 positions for qualified automotive technicians and specialists, and to properly plan for the technology, qualifications and jobs that will be required to service a rapidly changing national fleet fast approaching 20 million vehicles.

The Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) today released its Federal Election position paper *'Keeping Australia Moving'* highlighting the priorities of: People Training Skills and Mentoring; Building a Better Automotive Business Environment; Policy and Regulatory Reform; and Infrastructure.

MTAA and Members, on behalf of thousands of automotive businesses nationwide calls on the next Federal Government to engage in a better automotive industry partnership to develop a sector plan, an automotive sector blueprint, to address current skills shortages and a range of other matters impacting the sector, industries within it, and consumers.

MTAA CEO Richard Dudley says a proper partnership and developed plan must also address new skills, qualifications, innovation, infrastructure and technology that will fundamentally change Australians choice, ownership and use of cars, the services to support them, and direct and indirect implications for other portfolios including environment, tax and telecommunications.

'MTAA and its State and Territory Association Members have warned for years that an industry specific strategy for automotive Vocational Education and Training (VET) that attracts, retains and mentors new entrants, apprentices and trainees to the automotive sector is desperately needed. The current shortage of 35,000 qualified technicians is causing delays for consumers and increased workplace stress for many automotive small businesses as increasing workloads impact on the sustainability of the workforce' Mr Dudley said.

'Keeping Australia Moving' includes calls for:

- Recognition and support of industry training providers as the nation's largest employers of automotive apprentices and trainees
- Reintroduce and properly fund ongoing industry specific mentoring programs to retain apprentices and trainees – particularly those from high risk groups.
- Addressing competition and consumer issues with rapid introduction of Mandated Codes of Conduct for accessing service and repair information; franchised dealership agreements and motor body repair.
- Improve policy and regulatory outcomes by reducing the number of small business definitions and ensure consistency; investigate better aligned State and Federal regulations in terms of licensing, registration, repair and retailing.
- An innovative policy and regulations to properly deal with the 800,000 vehicles coming off Australian roads each year
- Abolition of the Luxury Car Tax, the opening of debate about the sustainability of fuel excise and other automotive related taxes, and transparency about potential future charging models.

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