

BULLETIN

Industry Divisions



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CANBERRA 13 August 2019: VACC Meets with Franchising Taskforce

Members are advised that in a watershed moment, MTAA CEO Richard Dudley, in collaboration with Michael McKenna and Steve Bletsos from VACC, met with the Australian Government's Franchising Taskforce as part of the Task Force's examination of the recommendations of the *Fairness in Franchising* report. The report was handed down by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services.

About the meeting

The meeting, held in Canberra on 13 August, was organised under the instruction of the Executive Committees of the Victorian Automobile Dealers (VADA), Motorcycle Industry Division (MID) and Farm and Industrial Machinery Association (FIMDA). VADA, MID and FIMDA have lobbied for the greater protection for franchise dealers since 2012.

What was discussed at the meeting?

VACC and MTAA outlined to the Taskforce its support for the report's recommendations and reiterated the VACC and VADA position on the need for urgent specific solutions to problems being experienced by franchisees in automotive industries.

As part of discussions, VACC and MTAA welcomed confirmation that the Industry Department is continuing its advanced work on the identification of specific solutions to now well documented concerns regarding franchising in new car, motorcycle, commercial vehicle and farm and industrial machinery retailing, as well briefings on the broader considerations of the Taskforce.

It was advised that the Taskforce will deliver its final report later this year.

Next steps

Members of the Taskforce are keen to further hear from VACC and MTAA members regarding the recommendations. The Taskforce has requested further evidence-based portfolios from VACC to assist in its report.

MTAA CEO Richard Dudley thanked the Taskforce for a very constructive consultation and for the opportunity to provide input into the Taskforce's investigations. The Taskforce was reminded that the VACC and MTAA members remained available to provide further input into the Taskforce's work as it further considers Government's response to the *Fairness in Franchising* report recommendations due later this year.



Caption: MTA CEO Richard Dudley with VACC's Michael McKenna and Steve Bletsos with the Franchising Taskforce in Canberra.

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