

## **ACCC releases findings from Agriculture Machinery Market Study**

Members of the VACC Farm and Industrial Machinery Dealer Association (FIMDA) and Motorcycle Industry Division (MID) are advised that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has completed its [Agricultural Machinery Market Study](#) and has today released its findings.

VACC and our national body, the Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA), are mentioned prominently throughout the ACCC reply. VACC and MTAA thank the FIMDA and MID members who contributed to the [VACC submission](#).

The Market Study recommendations are as follows:

- The ACCC recommends that agricultural machinery be considered for inclusion in the motor vehicle service and repair information sharing scheme.
- The ACCC recommends that agricultural machinery be included as part of any broader right to repair scheme introduced in Australia.
- The ACCC recommends that manufacturers and dealers provide clear and concise information to purchasers about warranties at the earliest practical opportunity in the sales process and before the point of sale.
- The ACCC recommends that manufacturers continue to adopt ISO data standards to promote interoperability between brands of machinery.

Further, the ACCC will develop guidance materials to assist purchasers of agricultural machinery to understand their business and consumer rights.

### **As a reminder, VACC's submission covered the following key points;**

- VACC focused its submission on the requirement for an equal playing field for FIMDA Dealer and Independent Repairer members with regard to access to service and repair information, with a focus on farmers in particular, being made aware of the ramifications associated with attempting to repair a piece of farm machinery without the proper training and equipment.
- Similarly, the paper makes the call for access to repair information and training to be made available to aftermarket repairers on reasonable commercial terms. Importantly, the paper heavily focuses on the investment made by franchise dealers in tooling, OHS&E and training. These areas must be addressed to ensure an equal playing field.
- The submission highlights the frustration experienced by FIMDA members when seeking to claim reimbursement from the OEM for Australian Consumer Law (ACL) work completed on behalf of a consumer when a claim is made under the provisions of the ACL. More importantly, the barriers put in place by some OEMs with regard to investigation and authorisation for work completed under warranty need to be addressed.

VACC and MTAA will enter into further dialogue with the ACCC in pursuit of better outcomes for its members.