

Media Release

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ATS decision a welcome boost for the whole automotive industry

VACC supports the Federal Government's announcement to maintain the Automotive Transformation Scheme (ATS). The decision is a boost to the automotive industry and it will support employment and community development in and around manufacturing plants.

VACC, Victoria's peak automotive industry body in the retail, service and repair sector of the automotive industry, has close working relationships with component parts suppliers and vehicle manufacturers and supports positive automotive industry initiatives and industry partners, like the Federation of Automotive Products Manufacturers.

"It is essential that Australia retains its manufacturing skills base and develops capacity further into advanced manufacturing," VACC Executive Director, Geoff Gwilym, said.

"It is important the ATS continues so it can assist automotive vehicle and parts manufacturers transition into new manufacturing initiatives. Coupled with the Australian Government's Growth Fund, the ATS will assist greatly in the reskilling of workers in the automotive industry affected by the car plant closures," Mr Gwilym said.

VACC also acknowledges the role Senators Kim Carr and Ricky Muir played in supporting the retention of the ATS. Senators Carr and Muir, along with Independent Senators Nick Xenophon and John Madigan, and Australian Greens Senator, Janet Rice, have also supported the automotive industry by co-sponsoring a Senate Inquiry into the future of Australia's automotive industry. VACC, along with its national body, the Australian Motor Industry Federation, say the Inquiry represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to map out a policy framework for the whole automotive industry.

"The automotive industry is not just about car making. Retail, research and innovation, repairs and servicing, transport technology and information systems will continue long after the production plants have closed. It is important that all sectors of the industry have opportunities and future employment, skills and career options are created. The ATS news is a step in the right direction and we hope the Federal Government continues to consult with the whole automotive industry to ensure there is more good news in the future," Mr Gwilym said.