

Bulletin

Tasmanian Automotive Chamber of Commerce



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A word from VADA Chair Sid Cetindag on the extraordinarily complex lobbying aspects of the NVES

Fellow dealers

Members of the Victorian Automobile Dealers Association (VADA) are provided with the following update on the lobbying activities undertaken by Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) CEO Matt Hobbs with regards to the New Vehicle Emissions Standard (NVES). The update provided in this communication is further to the three MTAA – VADA online seminar updates provided to VADA members, one of which was co-hosted by the Australian Automotive Dealer Association (AADA).

As VADA Chair, I acknowledge the work being done by MTAA CEO Matt Hobbs and all the state based Motor Trades Association Executive Directors on this issue and note the collaboration and mutual support of AADA CEO James Voortman and Team at AADA.

The MTAA and VADA approach

MTAA has taken an approach of working with the Australian Government and thus kept a low public profile on the issue.

Whilst VADA and MTAA have received many approaches from Opposition Shadow portfolio members to participate in dealer-based media opportunities, MTAA has maintained a level of restraint and preferred to continue to provide portfolios of evidence for the Government to consider. This has enabled MTAA to keep positive dialogue with both the Ministers Offices. We have much to offer the Government.

The MTAA recommendations to Government

The VADA reply to the consultation paper is included in the [MTAA NVES submission](#) which has been delivered to Government. A series of MTAA recommendations were included:

- Advised the government to treat 4X4s the same as Utes – similar to what the United States (US) scheme does.
- If Government wants to achieve US numbers, then include the entire suite of US mechanisms such as credits for off cycle technologies, air conditioning gasses and efficiencies as well as consumer incentives.
- The unique Australian Design Rules are not free – Australia needs to accept, Europe, US, Korean and Japanese certified vehicles without change.
- The government must allow for regular check ins and be nimble enough in its approach to be able to adjust the program. This includes conducting biennial industry supported government reviews.
- Consider the very real impact of the NVES on regional Australians.
- Consideration of the impact of the NVES across the whole of the auto industry not just OEMS, and policies and programs to support the automotive retail industry to transition.
- Consider the impact of the Road User Charge in the costing methodology.
- Consider the impact on the environment when disposing of a potential 20 million ICE vehicles.
- The government be mindful of the skills and labour issues currently impacting this sector.

Important meetings with Cabinet Ministers and other stakeholder groups

- MTAA has been in communication with Minister Bowen's and Minister King's Office.
- In meetings with the Ministers' Office there has been an indication from the Ministers that the Government will be progressing with NVES legislation, but the Ministers are open to adjustments to the proposed NVES. Those adjustments should specifically focus on relieving the impact on Dealers and the broader automotive industry.
- Meetings have been held with the Australian Prime Minister with a view to improving the NVES.
- Meetings will take place with Minister Bowen's Office this week.
- Meetings and support on local level have come from the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Victorian Farmers Federation and the CFMEU.

Research

The MTAA has commissioned consumer and dealer perception research. This project will be completed in the coming week. A briefing will be provided to VADA members and a report will be distributed when available.

Media and political discourse

MTAA advises that as the policy debates continues, the Coalition has cemented its opposition to the NVES. It is interesting to note that The Greens have started to deviate from their position and are linking the passage of the NVES legislation with other environmental policy requests including [stopping the approval of the Santos Gas Project](#). Added to this, is the more positive dialogue coming from the Government who are signalling that they are open to changes recommended by industry such as dealers – this was highlighted by Minister Bowen's statements on Insiders on Sunday 10 March.

Summary

Please be assured that VADA and VACC are working closely with MTAA on a best outcome approach for dealers from the NVES. The work being done by MTAA and VACC is complex and is being carried out methodically. The calm approach seems to be helping in keeping the Government at the table.

I thank Matt Hobbs for his efforts and am thankful for his knowledge on this issue and the VACC Policy Team headed up by Dr Imogen Reid.

Sid Cetindag
VADA Chair