



PRESS RELEASE

The Motor Traders Association of NSW applauds the action Government and particularly the Minister David Campbell to ensure written off-motor vehicles no longer represent a danger to the public or a mechanism to legitimize stolen vehicles.

MTA CEO James McCall said “a great many written off vehicles are purchased at auction by “back-yard” repairers, cosmetically repaired and put back on the road in an unsafe condition. Many of these vehicles are death traps.”

“There is also substantial evidence highlighting that the availability of repairable written-off vehicles is significantly contributing to motor vehicle based crime” said James McCall, CEO of MTA NSW “the industry welcomes any effort to reduce criminal activity and unsafe vehicles on our roads”

The decision announced today by the Minister, David Campbell, shows that the NSW Government recognises the seriousness of this growing problem and has the courage to act in the best interest of NSW consumers, despite intense opposition from the insurance industry and its agents.

Negative comments on this decision have been made by the Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council [MVTRC] – consumers should be reminded that this Council is heavily funded by the Insurance Industry and it is no surprise to us that the Council is making comments that would please insurers. In fact, we have a letter from the Insurance Council of Australia implying that their financial support to the MVTRC would be withdrawn if it did not stop supporting moves to get rid of repairable write-offs”. McCall said

There are, on average 35,900 vehicles written off annually in NSW. Considering these vehicles are assessed by insurance companies as unfit for repair it is distressing that approximately 13,600 of these vehicles are presented for re-registration each year.



“It is important to note that whilst the overall motor vehicle theft figures have reduced in recent years” continued Mr McCall “the number of vehicles that are unrecovered each year has remained static and in some years actually increased.

“When a vehicle is unrecovered it is usually an indication that professional gangs are involved” says Mr McCall

Professional gangs employ a variety of methods to cover their crimes and re-birthed vehicles find their way back into the market, usually purchased privately from an unknown person. The unsuspecting buyer then finds out the vehicle has previously been written-off and in some instances the vehicle is seized by Police as it has been repaired using stolen parts or the identifiers have been interfered with.

“Even if a vehicle is not repaired using stolen parts, backyarders repair the written off vehicle using whatever means necessary and have no regard for the ongoing safety of the vehicle.

“I have seen written off vehicles repaired without replacing airbags that have been deployed and the wiring is interfered with so that the driver has no idea the airbags won’t work in a collision” Mr McCall said.

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