

# Heavy Vehicle licensing improvements

July 2025

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## Motor Trade Association of WA Policy Statement

### ***Heavy Vehicle licensing process to align with other jurisdictions in Australia, and dealers to have access to an online system.***

#### Recommendations

1. Heavy vehicle dealers to have access to the Department of Transport WA Dealer Online Systems (DOS) to license vehicles.
2. Allow approved HV dealers that use DOS to hold licence plates.
3. Review jurisdictional inconsistencies to licence HV and identify service delivery improvements for HV dealers. (Scope and level of inspection required)

#### Background

WA is highly regarded as a heavy vehicle body builder, mainly because of WA's tough environmental and infrastructure conditions, and the mining sector's strong reliance on WA body builders for productivity and reliability.

New heavy vehicle licensing and registration processes vary across Australia, as do the associated licence and duty fees. Victoria and New South Wales can process applications through an online portal. SA, NSW, and QLD do not require a physical inspection of new trailers from approved manufacturers. WA dealers do not have access to the Dealer Online System available to light vehicle dealers and cannot process licence applications online or via a portal. WA manufacturers experience delays due to processing and bear the vehicle manufacturing costs (debt) for longer than their competitors.

#### Rationale

- Manufacturing is a competitive sector, and we must retain what little manufacturing remains in WA.
- Heavy vehicle sales and trailer (Body building) manufacturing in WA contribute significantly to GDP directly and indirectly through the mining sector.
- The licensing process for new heavy vehicles in WA seems unnecessarily complicated, giving a commercial advantage to interstate manufacturers and dealers.
- Heavy vehicle manufacturers and dealers in WA generally spend more time at driver vehicle service centres than their interstate counterparts, contributing to service centre congestion.
- National fleet companies are opting to license vehicles in other states to avoid delays and registration fees. For instance, heavy vehicle trailers licensed in QLD are exempt from duty.

End.

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