

BUILD A BETTER AUTO BUSINESS AT THE 2019 AUSTRALIAN AUTO AFTERMARKET EXPO

In a little under six months' time, we will open the doors on the 2019 Australian Auto Aftermarket Expo which will be held from Thursday 4th - Saturday 6th April at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre

The Expo is the single largest event of its kind in Australia featuring the very latest in automotive parts, accessories, workshop tools and equipment. Attracting more than 350 exhibitors and 10,000 domestic and international trade visitors, the 2019 Expo will showcase a comprehensive range of automotive aftermarket parts, accessories, tools and equipment from the industry's leading companies and brands. The Expo will also offer a comprehensive free seminar and education program on the latest industry trends and business improvement techniques and provide a hub for networking and business development.

The Auto Expo will be again run in conjunction with the Collision Repair Expo, Australia's only trade event dedicated to the specialist needs of the collision repair industry. Held over nearly five acres of exhibition space, the combined events will provide a window on the world of tomorrow's automotive aftermarket accessories, replacement parts, workshop equipment, repair, service and maintenance products.

We will again be running the Australian Auto



Aftermarket Awards program in conjunction with the Expo to recognise innovation and outstanding contribution to the development of the Australian Automotive Aftermarket Industry.

Run biennially, these awards acknowledge organisations and individuals, within the industry, who set the benchmark for excellence across a wide variety of marketing, manufacturing, products and service award categories. The Awards will be presented at a breakfast and gala dinner to be held at Crown Casino on Thursday the 4th of April 2019. The Award categories and criteria are currently being finalised and a call for entries will be circulated to all AAAA members over the coming weeks.

We have experienced unprecedented demand for exhibition space with more than 90 percent of available space already sold, so if you are planning to exhibit and haven't yet locked in a stand please contact Nina Roberts at IEC on 03 9596 9205 or email nina@iecgroupp.com.au

Entry to the Expo and seminar sessions is free of charge to all trade visitors and for those travelling from interstate we have negotiated preferential accommodation rates at a range of nearby hotels. For details, go to <https://ep.ozaccomm.com.au/public/AAA19/accommodation-.aspx>

For further information and to register to attend the Expo, please visit www.aftermarketexpo.com.au

SPECIAL UPDATE: CHANGES TO VEHICLE LIFT LAWS IN QUEENSLAND!

As many people would be aware through recent media reports and social media activity, earlier this month without any prior notice the Queensland Police launched a blitz titled 'Operation Lift' on raised 4WD vehicles which included issuing fines, defect notices and impounding vehicles

The information included in the defect sheets being used by the Police stated that any vehicles fitted with ESC that had been raised over 50mm with a combination of suspension and tyre lift required an ESC test and certification, which differed from previous advice issued by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) which allowed an uncertified lift of up to 75mm. Both New South Wales and Victoria allow a maximum 75mm uncertified lift in their regulations which allows for a combination of 50mm in suspension and 25mm in tyre.

We had raised our concerns with TMR's change

in interpretation of the rules on numerous occasions over the past year both with the Department directly and via letters to the Queensland Transport Minister in December 2017 and March 2018. We were still in negotiations with the Department around the potential to provide test evidence to support our position when 'Operation Lift' was launched.

In response to this police operation, we issued a media release on the issue together with a call to action on our social media sites. With the support of the AAAA membership, 4WD Queensland and a range of other 4WD media and user groups, we were able to mobilise huge numbers of vehicle owners from around the country to raise their concerns directly with the Department and Minister.

As a result of this unprecedented response by the 4WD community, on the 20th of September the Queensland Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the Honourable Mark Bailey, announced reforms to the LS9 and LS10 codes within the Queensland Code of Practice. These reforms will

allow a lift of 75mm on an ESC equipped vehicle under their owner certification rules so there will be no requirement for an ESC test and certification. In addition, they will increase the overall vehicle lift allowable from 125mm to 150mm for vehicles that have undergone certification to align with other state jurisdictions.

We welcome this intervention by the Minister on this important issue that has a direct impact on tens of thousands of Queensland vehicle owners who have made safe and responsible modifications to their vehicle and we look forward to working with our industry and TMR to ensure safe and compliant vehicles on Queensland roads.

GRAHAM SCUDAMORE-SMITH
President

STUART CHARITY
Executive Director