

NSW Department of Customer Service

Via email - motordealersandrepairersact@customerservice.nsw.gov.au

To whom it may concern

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed introduction of Light Electric Vehicle mechanic and Heavy Electric Vehicle mechanic repair classes in NSW.

The NSW Small Business Commissioner (the Commission) is an independent statutory office of the NSW Government. It provides strategic advice, advocacy and affordable dispute resolution services across NSW.

The Commission's role includes:

- Encouraging government agencies and larger businesses to enter productive working relationships with small businesses
- Facilitating and encouraging the fair treatment of small businesses
- Promoting a fair operating environment in which small businesses can flourish.

The Commission is of the view that there is a need to ensure adequate availability of courses across NSW, including regional areas, prior to mandating any new requirements.

More than 95 per cent of businesses in the automotive industry are small businesses. The Commission engages regularly with industry stakeholders and has received feedback from regional businesses who raised concerns regarding the lack of local training providers to deliver certain trainings in prescribed qualifications, and the subsequent difficulty to recruit qualified tradespersons or new apprentices. When contacted by the Commission, one training provider explained that the course in question was not offered due to the low number of students' enrolments, which made the course no longer financially viable.

The consultation paper acknowledges that there are only a few RTOs that are currently offering the Certificate III in Automotive Electric Vehicle Technology: three RTOs in Australia, including two in the Sydney region according to <https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/AUR32721>.

While Australia's electric vehicle uptake is very low at this early stage, it is anticipated that the immediate demand for training will be equally low, thus potentially affecting course financial viability. The Commission encourages further policy support be considered to help small businesses adapt their operations to electric vehicle technologies.

Additionally, the Commission encourages for any new repairer classes to be covered by the Motor Vehicle Insurance and Repair Industry Code of Conduct and capable of benefiting from the Alternative Dispute Resolution provisions of the Code.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. If you require further information, please contact Megan Bennett, at either megan.bennett@smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au or (02) 9372 8767.

Yours sincerely



Chris Lamont
Commissioner
NSW Small Business Commission

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