

AADA WELCOMES GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN NEW CAR DEALERS

8 September 2026

The Australian Automotive Dealer Association (AADA) has congratulated the Albanese Government for expanding the DRIVEN Program to include EV servicing and repair equipment, a change that adopts recommendations put forward by AADA and recognises the significant investments being made by franchised new car dealers to support Australia's transition to electric vehicles.

AADA CEO James Voortman said the announcement reflects recommendations made by AADA in its pre-budget submission and demonstrates that the Government has listened to industry concerns and understands the significant costs and operational challenges dealers face as they prepare their businesses for an increasingly electrified vehicle fleet.

"AADA welcomes the Government for recognising that Australia's transition to electric vehicles requires more than charging infrastructure alone.

"Franchised dealers are investing millions of dollars in specialised equipment and workplace safety measures to support Australia's growing EV fleet, and the expansion of the DRIVEN Program acknowledges these real-world costs.

"Recent record EV sales demonstrate that the transition is happening now. These changes will help dealers meet the challenges of the fastest transition the Australian automotive industry has ever experienced while ensuring motorists continue to have access to safe, high-quality EV sales, servicing and repair facilities."

AADA consumer [research](#) shows that customers who are open to purchasing an EV are overwhelmingly looking to the new vehicle market, with 71 per cent saying they would consider buying a new EV over a used EV. This highlights the important role franchised dealers play in helping customers make the transition to EVs not just through sales, but through ongoing servicing, repairs and advice.

The AADA said the Government's decision demonstrates the value of industry consultation and evidence-based policymaking.

"By adopting AADA's recommendation to expand the DRIVEN Program, the Government has delivered a practical policy outcome that reflects the realities of modern automotive retailing.

"AADA looks forward to continuing to work with the Government on policies that support vehicle electrification while ensuring customers have access to the skilled technicians, equipment and dealer networks they need to confidently purchase, service and repair new vehicle technologies."

ENDS.

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