

Mailing Address:

GPO Box 1555
Canberra ACT 2601

Address:

103 Northbourne Ave
Canberra ACT 2601

P 02 6247 7311

F 02 6257 5320

W www.aaa.asn.au

MEMBER OF



Mr Rod Sims

Chairman
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

27 March 2017

Dear Mr Sims

I write to provide you with new results from the Australian Automobile Association (AAA) on-road vehicle emissions test program.

As you know, the AAA has engaged engineering firm ABMARC to conduct a series of real-world driving emissions tests to inform our policy and advocacy in relation to emissions standards for the Australian light vehicle fleet. The program is testing 30 vehicles supplied to the Australian market from a range of brands, vehicle categories, body styles, fuel types and engine technologies.

In December 2016, the AAA released results from the first ten cars tested. These preliminary results found emissions of noxious gases were up to four times the regulatory limits, while greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption were up to 35 per cent higher than the figures shown on the government-mandated Fuel Consumption Label for individual vehicles.

The program has now tested seventeen vehicles and continues to find a significant divergence between real-world and laboratory test results. The latest results reveal real-world fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions are up to 60 per cent higher than claimed on the Government's mandated Fuel Consumption Label and 25 per cent higher on average. The latest results also show on-road noxious gas emissions up to eight times the applicable laboratory limits.

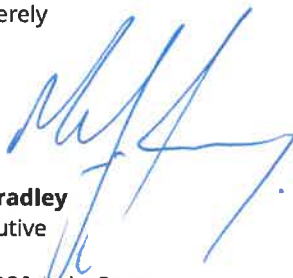
A copy of the Interim Report is enclosed for your information.

The AAA believes these results highlight a significant information gap for consumers. Currently, Australian consumers rely solely on information derived from laboratory tests, which, as shown by these latest results, do not resemble the actual fuel use and emissions profile of vehicles when used on Australian roads using Australian fuels. Without real-world testing information, consumers can only guess what their actual fuel costs will be.

The AAA believes these results are of critical importance to the ACCC market study into the new car retailing industry. Consumers are making decisions about which vehicle to purchase based on information that is not replicated in actual driving conditions, highlighting the inadequacy of the current regulatory regime.

The AAA expects final results from the test program to be available in mid-2017.

Yours sincerely



Michael Bradley
Chief Executive

Encl: ABMARC Interim Report

