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Used car imports hurt safety



The National Automotive Leasing and Salary Packaging Association (NALSPA) welcomes the federal government's recent response to the Harper competition policy review as it relates to the issue of parallel imports of second-hand cars.

It is NALSPA's view that reducing restrictions on the large-scale importation of used cars would present unnecessary risks to consumers, the general public and the wider automotive sector, and potentially lead to unforeseen costs being incurred for consumers and the wider community.

The Australian motor vehicle market is already one of the most competitive in the world and, similarly,

the range of choice of vehicle for an Australian consumer is one of the widest globally. We question whether consumers are likely to be able to import and maintain identical popular used cars to those already available locally at a more affordable total cost.

The Productivity Commission itself acknowledged there was little point in removing barriers to importing comparably priced second-hand vehicles.

More importantly, the perception of imported used cars being generally more affordable than domestic vehicles doesn't take into account a variety of unknowns about such vehicles. Australasia's leading independent vehicle safety advocate,

ANCAP (Australasian New Car Assessment Program), states that opening the Australian market to large-scale importation of second-hand vehicles will reduce the safety of the Australian car fleet and is inconsistent with national efforts under the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 to reduce road trauma.

For the benefit of all road users we should support standards that maintain the highest possible safety outcomes and protections for consumers.

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