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Statement of Principles

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Tractor and Machinery Association of Australia (TMA) members are committed to supporting farmers through provision of high quality and safe agricultural machinery that reduces downtime, maximises productivity and minimises environmental impact. Agricultural machinery and tractor dealerships operate all over Australia, largely in rural, regional and remote areas. These dealerships are a crucial part of their local economies, as employers, providers of traineeships and education, supporters of community initiatives.

TMA members recognise that farmers and end users depend on agricultural machinery for safe and consistent operation to support income generation and cannot afford for them to be out of operation for a great length of time. Agricultural machinery is commonly worked hard on a seasonal basis. This intensive manner of working makes proper maintenance and repair particularly critical to the performance and safety of that equipment. Importantly, the machinery is often technologically complex and requires a high level of expertise to repair and service, which must be ensured by high quality professional training. Farm machinery and tractors are not cars, and should not be treated as such.

TMA members support farmers' ability to maintain and repair their machinery. All TMA members provide customers with information relating to consumer rights, product reparability and warranties at the point of sale.

Manufacturers and authorised dealers will support farmers' ability to identify and repair issues they may encounter with their equipment, through the provision of:

- Manuals (Operator, Parts, Service)
- Product Guides
- Product Service Demonstrations, Training, Seminars, or Clinics
- Fleet Management Information
- Diagnostic information and support
- Other publications with information on service, parts, operation, and safety

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The industry is eager to continue working with end users and farmers to provide the most innovative and high-quality equipment to meet the needs of modern production agriculture. TMA members are also supportive of industry changes that improve the customer experience without adding additional cost or putting safety, performance or environmental standards at risk.

The ability to repair does not mean the right to modify. To protect the safety, quality, durability, performance and environmental operating standards of agricultural machinery, the industry does not support customers or repairers doing any of the following:

- Resetting an immobiliser system or security-related electronic modules,
- Reprogramming any electronic processing units or engine control units,
- Changing any equipment or engine settings negatively affecting emissions or safety compliance,
- Downloading or accessing the source code of any proprietary embedded software or code.

Modifications to the software or machinery can lead to:

- Unsafe operation of the product and the equipment no longer complying with safety standards,
- Disruption of machine capabilities and performance,
- Changes to emissions controls,
- Lack of transparency of any changes to the equipment when the equipment is sold to another user.

TMA members, farmers and customers all have a shared interest in ensuring agricultural machinery functions at its optimal level in a way that is safe and meets industry environmental standards.

The Tractor and Machinery Association of Australia (TMA) represents importers, manufacturers and sellers of agricultural tractors and machinery in Australia. Established over 70 years ago, the TMA is the industry's voice on issues relating to safety, training, regulation and market statistics. For more information, please visit our website

www.tma.asn.au