



Holden

6 December 2017

MEDIA STATEMENT

Holden agrees with today's interim ruling by the Federal Court, which reinforces Holden's position in this matter.

Holden strongly values diversity, equality and inclusion, and is one of Australia's most ethnically diverse employers. We are proud of this diversity and our contribution to the country's social fabric as a key employer for more than 70 years. We have given thousands of migrants a start in a new country, many literally stepped off a boat and into employment with Holden. This diversity extends nationwide to our dealerships, many of which are owned by Australians from a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds.

Holden strongly rejects the offensive and without-basis claims made by Metro Holden that Holden ended the relationship with Metro Holden based on racial or cultural grounds.

Holden has had a 40-year business and commercial relationship with Jack Torcaso; at no stage during this time has Mr Torcaso's ethnicity ever been raised as an issue. In fact, Holden invited Mr Torcaso to participate in a closed tender in 2016 for a new dealership in Adelaide's northeast, which would have further extended this relationship.

We are disappointed in the issues and allegations raised by Metro Holden and stress that Holden has always acted in the best interest of our whole dealer network, particularly in South Australia.

The delay in this legal action is unfortunate for all involved and not of Holden's making. Metro Holden was given nearly two years, advanced notice – over and above the six months required – that its current contract would not be renewed after December 31, 2017. Holden was surprised and disappointed that the legal action taken was left until the eleventh hour and that the dealership appears to have taken no steps at all to assist its employees in transitioning to new employment.

The decision by Holden to not renew the contract for Metro Holden was a difficult business decision but one taken in the best interest of our future and that of our of South Australian dealer network. The size and footprint of Holden's national dealer network needed to be reshaped to ensure Holden's future success. Having two Adelaide dealerships just 4km from each other was not sustainable in the long-term.

The court ruling supports Holden's position that Metro Holden was given more than enough time to manage the wind down of its operations, and Holden is confident of successfully defending its position at trial in the new year.