Public submission in response to the ACCC preliminary report into the new car retailing industry from Boyce Automotive Data.

Firstly and most compellingly Boyce Automotive Data welcomes the ACCC preliminary report and its findings.

Boyce Automotive Data has been aggregating technical information to the aftermarket since 1970.The vehicle database is a chronological history of the Australian carpark dating back to 1965.

The business was born out of a need for Australian aftermarket automotive service outlets to access service and repair information for all makes and models that came into their workshops.

The founder, Mr David Boyce was a publisher, engineer and a racing enthusiast who would meet Mr Frank Burgess the past president of the Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers (10,000 automotive repairer members at its peak).
This association would lead to the first publication in 1970 of the Boyce 4-1 technical manual. The popular seller inspired more topics relating to the automotive repair industry being published in hard copy.

The Autolibrary as it is now known services over 5,000 workshops and dealerships nationwide making it the largest and only Australian owned company which research vehicle data here in Australia for vehicles built to Australian Design Rules (ADR).

With over 50 manufactures now selling their vehicles in Australia, the need for technical data for all of these manufacturers from one cost effective source is critical to the productivity and viability of the all makes, all models independent repairer.

The Autolibrary's main function is to supply only the relevant information needed to perform a service or repair job where a technician can easily navigate his way and importantly it's all in one place.

Third party data providers or intermediaries are a critical component of the data supply chain. Using a data aggregator such as Boyce is the norm not the exception. A large percentage of repairs use data aggregators and only subscribe for specific models if they specialise in that model or they have a complex repair.

As managing director of Boyce Automotive Data I speak for all our technical members nationwide and ask that we be included as a definitive finding rather than:
Recommendations - Page xii
'Consideration should be given to including options for relevant intermediaries to access technical information from car manufacturers on commercially fair and reasonable terms'

On closing I may add that it has taken over 60 years to compile the Autolibrary and its benefits to the automotive aftermarket industry are of paramount importance to technicians who find themselves inundated with new motor vehicles coming into their business every day.

Yours cordially,
Mark Boyce
Managing Director.

Important links:
www.autolibrary.com.au
www.iame.com.au