

# Written-off vehicle reforms 2011



Transport  
Roads & Traffic  
Authority

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On 31 January 2011, the New South Wales Government will introduce laws to improve road safety and consumer protection, and clamp down on vehicle theft and re-birthing.

Vehicles written-off after 31 January 2011 will be classified as statutory (non-repairable) write-offs. This means they cannot be registered and can only be used for parts or scrap metal.

### What is a written-off vehicle?

A written-off vehicle is a vehicle that has undergone a damage assessment and been reported to the Written-off Vehicle Register (WOVR).

### What types of vehicles do the laws apply to?

The laws apply to NSW light vehicles up to 15 years old, including cars, trailers, caravans and motor bikes.

A light vehicle is a registrable vehicle that is 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass (GVM) or less.

### Will any vehicles written-off after 31 January 2011 be able to be registered?

Limited applications to repair and register will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The registered vehicle operator (at the time the vehicle was assessed as a write-off) can apply to the RTA for authorisation to repair if the vehicle is:

- in an exempt vehicle category
- able to be repaired to legislated vehicle safety standards.

### What are the exempt vehicle categories?

Exempt vehicle categories include:

- High market value
- Hail damage
- Low production run
- First or last in production run or model range
- Personally imported
- Individually constructed

- Inherited
- Owned for five years or more by the registered operator
- Registered operator is a member of a recognised enthusiasts' club for vehicles of that type

### If the RTA gives me an Authorisation to Repair my written-off vehicle, what happens next?

The vehicle must be repaired according to the standards in the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007. You will need to have the repairs certified by a NSW Fair Trading licensed motor vehicle repairer and the vehicle must pass two inspections before you can apply for registration.

### Will the laws affect my repaired write-off that was registered before 31 January 2011?

No. Vehicles classified as repairable write-offs and registered before 31 January 2011 can continue to be re-registered for the life of the vehicle, providing standard RTA inspection and registration requirements are met.

### Will unregistered vehicles classified as repairable before 31 January 2011 be able to be registered?

Vehicles classified as repairable write-offs in NSW before 31 January 2011 can be registered if these requirements are met:

- Up to and including 30 July 2011, these vehicles are eligible for re-registration providing standard RTA inspection and registration requirements are met.

- From 31 July 2011, these vehicles cannot be re-registered unless repairs are certified by a NSW Fair Trading licensed repairer and the vehicle passes two inspections.
- From 31 January 2013, these vehicles are eligible for re-registration. However, you will need to apply to the RTA for Authorisation to Repair, have repairs certified by a NSW Fair Trading licensed repairer and the vehicle must pass two inspections.

### **Can I buy, repair and register a NSW vehicle that was written-off before 31 January 2011?**

Yes, if it is classified as a repairable write-off.

The requirements for vehicles classified as repairable in NSW before 31 January 2011 (above) will apply.

### **Will I need to have my vehicle repairs certified?**

If your vehicle is recorded as a statutory write-off in NSW after 31 January 2011, a repairer with an appropriate class of licence from NSW Fair Trading must inspect the repairs and issue a Certificate of Compliance.

If your vehicle was recorded as a repairable write-off in NSW before 31 January 2011, you will need a Certificate of Compliance for the repairs from 31 July 2011 onwards.

### **What is a Certificate of Compliance?**

A Certificate of Compliance is an RTA form certifying that your vehicle has been properly repaired.

The form contains a declaration that the repairs were done according to legislated standards and it must be signed by a NSW Fair Trading licensed repairer.

### **Will my vehicle be inspected?**

Yes. All written-off vehicles applying for registration in NSW must pass two inspections – one for mechanical safety and one for identity validation.

### **What if my vehicle has hail damage but no structural damage?**

If your vehicle is written-off on or after 31 January 2011 as hail-damaged without structural damage, you will need to apply to the RTA for Authorisation to Repair.

If the RTA issues you with an Authorisation to Repair, it will include requirements that must be met before you can apply for registration.

### **What if my motor bike has cosmetic but no structural damage?**

If you have a motor bike that was written-off on or after 31 January 2011 with non-structural damage, you can apply to the RTA for Authorisation to Repair.

### **What if I buy a repairable write-off from another state?**

If the repairable write-off is recorded on the interstate Written-off Vehicle Register (WOVR) before 31 January 2011, the vehicle can be repaired and registered if it meets standard RTA registration requirements.

If the vehicle is recorded as repairable on the interstate WOVR after 31 January 2011, it must be repaired and registered in another state or territory before applying for registration in NSW.

### **Do the laws affect existing classifications of vehicles on the Written-off Vehicle Register?**

Repairable written-off vehicles that are not repaired and registered before 31 January 2013 will have their status changed to statutory on the WOVR.