



# Council of Heritage Motor Clubs - NSW Inc.

## Position Paper

### Definition of a Heritage Vehicle

#### **Issue:**

We often refer to our motoring Heritage, but what constitutes a heritage vehicle?

#### **Background:**

Australia has a rich motoring history that includes cars, trucks, tractors and military vehicles.. In the early 20th century Australia had its own pioneer motor vehicle industry, most of which ceased production, but a burgeoning vehicle body building industry continued.. After WWI, government initiatives supporting Australian content in vehicles led to a consolidation of the body building plants and manufacture of vehicles such as Geelong bodied Fords. These were unique to Australia and utilised available Australian manufacturing techniques. The desire for increased Australian content as well as support to develop "Australia's Own" vehicle led to many manufacturers building vehicles in Australia. Some of these were built from CKD components, but many were designed for local manufacture. The 1985 Button Car plan resulted in much badge sharing and a unique to Australia motoring industry.

Currently in NSW, vehicles that are 30 years old become eligible for one of two conditional registration schemes, either Historic or Classic depending on their level of originality. However, just because a vehicle is 30 years old this does not mean that it has heritage value. Whilst vehicles from some manufacturers enjoy much popularity, others have faded into the background. Popularity in itself is not a determiner of a vehicle's heritage value.

FIVA has developed its own definition of an Historic Vehicle that has key elements that the CHMC agrees with, but it currently excludes non-road vehicles that are widely embraced as an integral part of Australia's motoring heritage.

Recently South Australia aligned its Historic Registration to that in Victoria, namely vehicles 25 years old. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this has moved many vehicles from everyday use to an historic registration some with questionable historic value. Many clubs believe this, along with the introduction of modified registration categories and log books, has led to an undervaluing of and commitment to preserving Australia's motoring heritage.

#### **Position:**

The CHMC defines a heritage vehicle as being:

- mechanically propelled;
- at least 30 years old;
- preserved or restored and maintained in an historically correct condition;
- not in daily use; and
- recognised as a part of Australia's technical and cultural heritage

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