

Good Afternoon,

I am a vehicle enthusiast. I have owned over 100 vehicles in my life and I have been an imported Japanese Vehicle Owner and Enthusiast since 1997.

I ran a business for 10 years under the previous low volume import scheme that imported R33 Nissan Skylines so I have experience of the industry as a consumer and a business owner.

The Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities Website states the intent of the SEVS Scheme *“is to make motor vehicles available in Australia which cater for specialist and enthusiast interests”*

Since the advent of the SEVS scheme I have personally imported 11 vehicles “ 6 of which I still own. This scheme allows enthusiasts such as myself the opportunity to purchase vehicles that manufacturers didn’t deem viable for the local market. I enjoy the process of finding the vehicles and importing them almost as much as having the vehicles here. I often purchase a vehicle whilst in Japan on holidays and drive it around the country before importing it. If that isn’t an enthusiast vehicle I don’t know what is.

Every vehicle that I import has a positive knock-on effect in the local economy that would not exist if I purchased a used vehicle from local stock. From the truck driver that takes the vehicle from the wharf, to the workshop that complies the vehicle to local standards, to the business that does the window tinting or installs the new stereo. These are the sort of drivers our small business economy thrives on. The 2014 Productivity Commission report on The Car Industry and the Harper Review both recommended extensive deregulation of the used vehicle import scheme.

I believe that any vehicle that is not currently imported as a new car in the Australian Market, meets the Australian Safety Standards for the year it was produced and meets the current SEVS 105kW/tonne power to weight threshold should be allowed to be imported.

These are not vehicles that are taking sales away from new car dealers. I have never personally purchased a brand new locally delivered vehicle. The enthusiast vehicles available overseas are of a higher specification, higher performance and in better condition than similar types of vehicles available in the local used market.

On a personal level I would seriously consider re-opening my vehicle importation business should the above criteria come into place, immediately providing new jobs for up to 4 employees.

With the demise of the Australian vehicle manufacturing industry there is no reason to deny genuine enthusiasts such as myself the freedom of choice to purchase our vehicles from overseas. There are no economic or safety grounds to justify any tightening of the current SEVS criteria for importation.

Many Thanks,

Regards,

**Jeff Ash**

Sales Manager

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