

Media Release



Government of South Australia

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15 July 2009

TWO YEAR BAN FOR BACKYARD CAR DEALER

Another backyard car dealer has been convicted in the Magistrates Court today and prohibited from selling second hand vehicles for two years.

Kevin Andrew Bednarz, 58, of Torrensville was convicted of five counts of interfering with vehicle odometers, carrying on business as a second-hand vehicle dealer without a licence and falsely representing the history of a second-hand vehicle.

The Magistrate took into account Bednarz's inability to pay a fine or perform community service due to his financial situation and disabling injuries sustained in a car accident, instead placing him on a two year \$5000 good behaviour bond. A condition of that bond is that Mr Bednarz is not to engage in the selling of second hand vehicles to members of the public.

The Magistrate warned Bednarz that he may be imprisoned if he breaches the terms of his bond and returns before the Courts.

Director of Compliance and Enforcement for the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA), Dini Soulio said "Mr Bednarz's deception was clearly unlawful and put consumers at risk."

"Consumers paid for vehicles assuming that the odometer reading was correct, however the vehicles would have been worth substantially less than the price paid given the number of kilometres they had actually travelled."

"OCBA will seek to prosecute anyone who carries on business as a second-hand vehicle dealer without a licence or who winds back odometers to falsely inflate the value of vehicles" Mr Soulio said.

In the past 12 months OCBA has taken action against three other backyard car dealers resulting in convictions for two dealers and a permanent ban from ever working in the industry again for the other dealer.

Consumers are encouraged to report suspected unlawful behaviour by car sellers to OCBA on 8204 9777 or 131 882 for country callers.