



PRESS RELEASE

Toyota Diesel Defeat Device Class Action launched in Australia

Woodsford supports another major Australian class action with a claim filed yesterday in the Supreme Court of Victoria on behalf of up to half a million owners of diesel-powered Toyota vehicles.

London, Melbourne 18 October 2022. The class action filed yesterday by Victoria-based **Maddens Lawyers** alleges that **Toyota Motor Corporation Australia Limited** manufactured and sold hundreds of thousands of diesel vehicles to Australian consumers that possess engine design features commonly known as ‘defeat devices’. The claim is being funded by **Woodsford**, a leading global ESG, access to justice and litigation finance business.

It is alleged that some diesel engines developed by Toyota, including those incorporated in some of their most popular models such as the Landcruiser and Hilux, include design elements which tamper with the vehicle’s emissions control system in order to enhance the car’s performance.

Woodsford’s Chief Investment Officer (EMEA & APAC), Charlie Morris commented: *“Toyota’s conduct in this matter is egregious. Not only do these defeat devices deceive consumers into buying a vehicle that is different to what they thought they were buying, they are also damaging to the environment, as diesel cars that do not meet the required emissions standards continue to find their way onto our roads. Woodsford is dedicated to holding big businesses like Toyota to account over wrongdoing of this kind so that consumers receive the compensation they are due, but also in the hope that actions of this kind will lead to a step-change in the behaviour of big business.”*

Maddens Lawyers Class Action Principal, Ms Kathryn Emeny said on some Toyota models the emissions control system is alleged to perform differently in test conditions compared to on road conditions. This results in cars passing regulatory testing but then emitting unlawfully high levels of nitrogen oxide when on the road.

“Toyota has historically been one of Australia’s most trusted brands. It is Australia’s top selling car brand. If the Court finds that Toyota has been using ‘defeat devices’ then there are literally hundreds of thousands of people driving a car that simply should have never been allowed on our roads,” Ms Emeny said.

The lead plaintiff, Mr Adam Rowe is advancing the class action on behalf of up to 500,000 eligible vehicle owners.

The number of impacted vehicles means that the potential ramifications for Toyota are enormous. This could completely overshadow VW’s ‘dieseldate’ scandal.

“This class action is one of the biggest claims in Australia’s legal history. It could result in each participant receiving tens of thousands of dollars of compensation.” Ms Emeny concluded.

Woodsford’s Senior Investment Officer, Adam Erusalimsky commented:

“We are delighted to be working with Kathryn Emeny and the class actions team at Maddens Lawyers on Mr Rowe’s case and assisting him, and the consumers he represents, in accessing justice.”

In addition to the claim against Toyota, **Woodsford** are currently backing numerous other major class actions the UK, Australia and Europe including those brought by consumers against Mitsubishi Motors Australia and the ANZ Bank.

Impacted vehicle owners can contact Maddens Lawyers to register their interest in the class action via www.toyotadieselclassaction.com.au

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Notes to editor

About Woodsford

Founded in 2010 and with a presence in London, New York, Brisbane, Philadelphia and Minneapolis, Woodsford is a leading ESG, access to justice and litigation finance business.

Whether it is helping consumers achieve collective redress, ensuring that investors and universities are properly compensated when Big Tech infringes intellectual property rights, or helping shareholders in collaborative, escalated engagement up to and including litigation with listed companies, Woodsford is committed to ensuring the highest ESG standards while providing access to justice.

Working globally with many of the world's leading law firms, our legal experience, investment, business and technical expertise, in tandem with our significant financial muscle, makes us a powerful partner and a formidable adversary.

Woodsford is a founder member of both the International Legal Finance Association (ILFA) and the Association of Litigation Funders of England & Wales (ALF), and a member of the International Corporate Governance Network.

Woodsford continues to grow, and we welcome approaches from experienced litigation lawyers and other professionals who are interested in joining our team.

Interviews, photos and biographies available on request.

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