



## PRESS RELEASE

### Ford Will Continue to Conduct Valuable Engineering and Design Services in Australia

*Despite the shutting down of their manufacturing production lines last week, Ford Australia re-emphasised their commitment to continue investing heavily in their innovation and R&D capabilities in this country.*

As of October 7<sup>th</sup> 2016, Ford Australia has closed their manufacturing production line, signalling the end of the Falcon and Territory models.

The vehicle manufacturers' 91 year history of making cars in Australia has taken a turn, as the company now focusses on their innovation and Research and Development (R&D) capabilities.

Graham Whickham, CEO of Ford Australia, stated that the company has, and will continue to, play a key role in developing global products.

"We'll continue to invest heavily in Australia as a major R&D hub for Ford globally" said Whickham. "This includes \$300 million this year alone, which contributes to developing vehicles such as the Ranger Ute and Everest SUV."

"[Our] facilities will serve development of world-class vehicles for Australians and customers around the world, while our 1,100-plus designers and engineers – many whom contributed to Falcon's legacy – are helping shape the auto industry's future."

"We will also continue to be a strong and vibrant partner to the communities where we operate and support the organisations we have built strong relationships with over many years."

Ford's advanced design, engineering and testing facilities will continue to operate at full capacity. These facilities include a 950-hectare test track in Lara, a Research and Development Centre in Geelong and Design and a Product Development Centre in Broadmeadows.

"The SAE-A is encouraged by Ford Australia's decision to continue investing into their R&D capabilities in Australia." said SAE-A CEO Dale Gilson. "For a long time, Ford Australia's engineers and designers have produced world-class innovations and products for the local and international market. The Society is pleased to know that this will continue."

Ford Australia won the prestigious Platinum award at the SAE-A's 2015 Mobility Engineering Excellence Awards, for their work on *an Innovative Approach to Predicting the Response of Road Vehicles to Crosswinds*.

**ENDS**



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