

Minister,

When I recently decided to get another spare key for my car, I contacted my local independent automotive locksmith who said he wasn't allowed access to the necessary proprietary software and only the manufacture could provide me with an extra key.

When I asked my local dealer for a quote, I was prepared for a surprise because Choice had warned its readers that car keys cost a fortune ([see Grand theft auto](#)), however, I was actually shocked when the quote was \$662.65 (see attachment), putting an extra key well-beyond my means.

With this recent price shock in mind, I was pleased to read you had released a [consultation paper](#) for a mandatory scheme that would allow independent locksmiths to compete with dealerships to lower prices to consumers.

However, my enthusiasm faded when I realised the consultation paper didn't nominate an implementation deadline, lacked penalties for non-compliance and allowed manufacturers to use safety, security and emissions as loopholes to thwart the scheme ([see AAAA's piercing analysis](#)).

Given consumers gained nothing in the past five years from the voluntary scheme, and they've waited over a year since the [ACCC](#) called for strong action to break the manufactures' monopoly, something more than a feeble consultation paper was required.

In particular, with a general election just months away, I would have expected the Government to woo voters with action, by legislating a pro-consumer scheme, rather than publishing a disappointing consultation paper that leaves voters wondering if the Opposition might do better.

[I don't require a response.]

Dennis Rice

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