

Information on the latest laws can be checked by visiting the NSW legislation website ([www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au)).

This publication does not represent a comprehensive statement of the law. You should seek independent legal advice if you need assistance on the application of the law to your situation.

© Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales

The information in this document is accurate at the time of printing.

For the latest information go to [www.rta.nsw.gov.au/wov](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/wov) or call 13 22 13

January 2011  
RTA/Pub. 11.010



Transport  
Roads & Traffic  
Authority

## Written-off vehicle reforms 2011



INFORMATION FOR REGISTERED  
VEHICLE OPERATORS AND OWNERS

# What is a written-off vehicle?

A written-off vehicle is a damaged vehicle that has undergone a damage assessment and been reported to the Written-off Vehicle Register (WOVR).

## Why are the laws being changed?

The new laws will improve consumer protection and vehicle safety, and reduce the risk of vehicle theft and re-birthing.

A vehicle is 're-birthed' when parts from a stolen vehicle are used illegally to repair and re-register a written-off vehicle. Re-birthed vehicles are usually poorly repaired and can be a safety risk.

## What are the new laws?

**From 31 January 2011, NSW written-off vehicles will be classified as statutory (non-repairable) write-offs on the WOVR.**

This means that if a vehicle is classified as a write-off it will:

- Not be able to be registered in Australia.
- Can only be used for parts or scrap metal.

The new laws apply to all NSW light vehicles including trailers, caravans and motor bikes. A light vehicle is a registrable vehicle 4.5 tonnes or less gross vehicle mass (GVM).

## Will any written-off vehicles be able to be registered?

In some cases, the RTA may consider applications to repair and register vehicles.

## Which vehicles will be considered for repair and registration?

The registered vehicle operator (at the time the vehicle was assessed as a written-off vehicle) can apply to the RTA if the vehicle is:

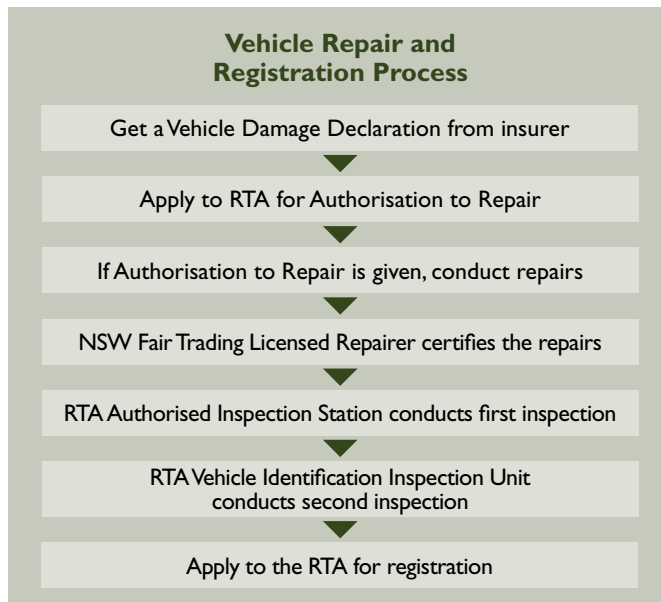
- In an exempt vehicle category.
- Able to be repaired to legislated vehicle safety standards.

Exempt vehicle categories include:

- High market value.
- Hail damage.
- Low production run.
- First or last in production run or model range.
- Personally imported.
- Individually constructed.
- Inherited.
- Owned for five years or more by the registered operator.
- Registered operator is a member of a recognised enthusiasts' club for vehicles of that type.

## What will the repair and registration process be?

1. The insurer assesses the damaged vehicle and, if requested, gives a Declaration of Vehicle Damage to the registered operator or owner.
2. The vehicle operator or owner sends an Application to Commence Repairs and a copy of the Declaration of Vehicle Damage to the RTA.
3. The RTA will consider if the vehicle is eligible for an Authorisation to Repair:
4. If the RTA issues an Authorisation to Repair:
  - The vehicle must be repaired according to manufacturer's guidelines (or to recognised industry standards if there are no manufacturer's guidelines), and
  - A vehicle repairer holding an appropriate class of licence issued by NSW Fair Trading must certify that the repairs have been carried out to the above standards.
5. The vehicle must pass two inspections – one for mechanical safety and one for identity validation.
6. The vehicle operator or owner can then lodge their application to register the vehicle.



## What happens if the vehicle was reported to the WOVVR before 31 January 2011?

Before 31 January 2011, some vehicles were automatically eligible to be repaired and re-registered. These vehicles were known as 'repairable write-offs'.

### Currently registered repairable written-off vehicles

- Repairable write-offs that were repaired and re-registered **before** 31 January 2011 in NSW can continue to be re-registered in NSW **after** 31 January 2011 for the life of the vehicle, providing standard RTA inspection and registration requirements are met.

### Unregistered repairable written-off vehicles

The following arrangements apply for repairable written-off vehicles reported to the Written-off Vehicle Register before 31 January 2011 but not yet re-registered with the RTA:

- Up to and including 30 July 2011, these vehicles are eligible for re-registration providing standard RTA inspection and registration requirements are met.
- From 31 July 2011, these vehicles cannot be re-registered unless repairs are certified by a NSW Fair Trading licensed repairer and the vehicle passes two inspections.
- From 31 January 2013, these vehicles will have their status changed to a **statutory write-off** if they have not been registered in the interim.

## Can I register my interstate repairable write-off in NSW?

If the repairable write-off was recorded on an interstate Written-off Vehicle Register before 31 January 2011, the vehicle can be repaired and registered in NSW if it meets RTA registration requirements.

If the vehicle was recorded as a repairable write-off on an interstate register from 31 January 2011, the vehicle is not eligible to have its registration established in NSW. The vehicle may only be registered in NSW if it has first been registered in the state or territory where it was written-off.

## Written-off vehicle registration requirements from 31 January 2011

From 31.1.2011, to register a written-off vehicle in NSW:	Vehicles written-off from 31.1.2011	Repairable write-offs recorded on WOVVR before 31.1.2011		
		Register before 31.7.2011	Register 31.7.2011 to 30.1.2013	Register from 31.1.2013
The registered vehicle operator or owner requests a Declaration of Vehicle Damage from the insurer	✓	n/a	n/a	n/a
The registered vehicle operator applies to the RTA and receives authorisation to repair the written-off vehicle	✓	n/a	n/a	✓
A repairer with an appropriate class of licence from NSW Fair Trading certifies the vehicle repairs	✓	n/a	✓	✓
The repaired vehicle must pass safety, design and identity inspections	✓	✓	✓	✓

How can I find out if a vehicle that I want to buy has been classified as written-off?

### Vehicle history check

You can use the RTA's vehicle history check service, which includes a wide range of vehicle information, including whether a NSW-registered vehicle has been written-off in NSW or interstate. This vehicle history check service is available for \$18 at [www.myrta.com.au](http://www.myrta.com.au)

### Written-off vehicle labels

Look for the following label on the vehicle.

## Statutory Write-Off

### WARNING:

This vehicle cannot be re-registered in NSW, or anywhere else in Australia.

Statutory written-off vehicle – available for parts or scrap only – limited exemptions apply.

This Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) has been recorded as a statutory write-off on the Written-off Vehicles Register.