

PURCHASING A VEHICLE OR BOAT? **PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS!**

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The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection ('DOCEP') ScamNet database lists a number of instances of consumers losing funds to 'conmen'. Many instances involve a car purchase that is still financed. When you purchase a vehicle or boat, whether for personal or business use, you should always check that there are no unpaid debts over that chattel.

It is strongly recommended that purchasers conduct a search of the Register of Encumbered Vehicles ('REVS'). REVS is a government database where security interests of lenders are registered against the chattel.

REVS searches should not be needed when buying a vehicle from a licensed dealer, as licensed dealers are required to guarantee clear title to the vehicle.

To conduct a REVS search, you must provide the registration, engine and vehicle identification/chassis ('VIN') numbers for the vehicle (in the case of a boat, the HIN, or hull identification number must be provided). DOCEP charges a fee for providing a certificate of the REVS search. Interstate vehicles and boats should be searched using the REVS system in their state of origin

If a REVS search reveals that there is money owing against the boat or vehicle, REVS should be able to advise on how to proceed with the purchase. This typically involves paying out the encumbrance as part of the purchase price. REVS searches also allow you to check whether the vehicle is registered in Western Australia, and whether the vehicle has been stolen.

This is general information only, and does not constitute specific legal advice. If you would like further information in relation to this matter or other legal matters please contact our offices at reception@hhg.com.au

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