



The Holden Torana A9X is considered one of Australia's most sort-after muscle cars. Credit: AAP

## Rare Holden Torana fetches \$775,000

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A rare 1977 Holden Torana A9X, originally destined for the racetrack, has sold at auction for \$775,000.

The two-door hatchback was essentially one of just 33 produced by Holden and is considered one of Australia's most sort-after muscle cars.

Holden built the 33 A9X hatchback shells in 1977, enough to last the expected racing life for the model.

They were double seam welded, all painted white and sold exclusively to race teams.

But Lloyds Auctions says there was considerable uproar from rival teams when word got out the shells were built with thinner gauge steel, making them considerably lighter than standard production cars they were immediately had two built out for the track, keeping a third as a spare.

Two years later, after the model was to be replaced with the first of the Commodores, Hodgson gave instructions to build the untouched shell into a road car, which is the one sold on Saturday.

The car has just 475 kilometres on the clock.

Lloyds chief Lee Hames said earlier this week that with recent high prices paid for rare Holdens, he wouldn't be surprised to see a record for the Torana with bids topping \$1 million.

"This is the holy grail of Holden motor collector cars," he said.

In recent auctions, one of the last Holden Commodores to be built in Adelaide sold for \$750,000, another A9X Torana sold for \$910,000 and a Holden Maloo Ute sold for \$1.1 million.