

Letter from the Chair

Dear TAs colleagues,

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2022. Our membership continues to grow in all categories (student, member and corporate member). We are pleased to announce an official branch in Tasmania and many thanks to our Tasmanian colleagues who will provide that voice in Tasmania and nationally.

TAs National Executive Committee (NEC) now has representation from the aviation (Scott Martin), maritime (Michael Schaumburg) and rail (Chris Baker) sectors with the Working Group Chairs joining NEC as Co-Opt members. TAs will continue to engage across all modes of transport (land, water and air) and provide a voice for the sustainable movement of people and goods.

It is pleasing to share that all our discussion papers collaboratively prepared by working groups are completed and uploaded on the TAs website. They will be useful for on-going communications via national webinars, conferences and advocacy activities like submissions and appearing at government enquiries.

In late April the NEC held a face-to-face planning exercise in Melbourne to discuss what we achieved in the last two years and what we could do even better in the next two years. TAs members provided the NEC with ideas and thoughts to make TAs an organisation that cares for its members and ensures the voice on transport matters is ever present. This informed a SWOT analysis, and we developed some actions to address high priority threats and weaknesses. The planning exercise provided an opportunity to hear from the Engineers Australia President Nick Fleming and for the NEC to get to know each other. We also discussed how TAs will work with Engineers Australia to support women in transport, consider a proposal for the Transport Area of Practice and prepare for our “Future of Transport” directions paper.



Madison Elliott and the Student Membership Working Group (SMWG) continue to implement actions for the benefit of students in the transport sector and they now have Charles Darwin University (new corporate member of TAs) to liaise with.

We also welcome SMEC as our newest corporate member. The NEC continues to connect with its corporate members across Australia and invite potential corporate

members from academia, government and the private sector. We also connect with our transport industry partners (e.g., AITPM, CILTA, ITE-ANZ, Roads Australia and ITSA) and with the Planning Institute of Australia.

TAs supports Engineers Australia's Future Now implementation phase and TAs continues to reach out through its branches to regional and remote areas and attract new committee and normal members to meet equity, diversity and inclusion objectives.

Stay safe and enjoy reading the July 2022 newsletter.

Kind Regards,



Shalendra Ram
Chair, Transport Australia society
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Transport Medal 2022

Engineers Australia's Transport Medal rewards and recognises outstanding individual contributions to transport in Australia. The **Transport Medal is open to individuals** from public and private sectors including transport operators, consultants, government departments and authorities, as well as academics and researchers. This award is nominator-driven and is not limited to members of Engineers Australia. A TAs committee will conduct the assessment process.

Nominations are open and close on 1 August 2022. The timeline is in line with Engineers Australia's 2022 season awards.

For nomination criteria, and previous recipients please refer to link below.

For any questions, please contact the Chair of the Assessment Panel, Flori Mihai at transport@engineersaustralia.org.au

Future of transport

Engineers Australia will be preparing a directions paper on 'The Future of Transport' for public release. This will incorporate material from all of the relevant Transport Australia Society discussion papers published over the past three years. TAs supports Engineers Australia in the preparation of this timely paper, with so many transport policy issues under consideration.

In addition, Engineers Australia has asked TAs to nominate a contact group, who will review the 'Future of Transport' directions paper for TAs and inform TAs members on progress with the paper. Shalendra Ram will lead the contact group, which has five members.

Student member update

SMWG has seen great successes, supported by our enthusiastic student representatives we continue to see engagement with new student members.

The national event team held their first student webinar 'TAs Industry Hour' where members heard from two professionals about their experience working on major transport projects. Students gained insights on the project overview, community benefits and digital engineering tools used. Students also got to share their preferences for future event topics. The top candidates included active transport, road safety and hearing from early professionals about their work.



The National Program team is looking at piloting a small-scale version of the Student Challenge, set to kick off for Queensland TAs student members in early semester two, 2022. We will be seeking sponsors with a presence in Queensland who want to be involved in reviewing and judging student project submissions and would like to connect with outstanding students from the winning team for work experience opportunities.

The Membership and Engagement team have established a plan to strengthen the relationship between TAs and student university societies across Australia. Our

Student Representatives are in the process of contacting societies and sharing information about TAs to be passed on to student members.

The NSW Branch Committee and SMWG members Joanne Deng and April Alcock joined with the NSW Young Engineers Australia Society to host the first breakfast graduate catch-up, sharing their insights of the transport industry with final year university students and new graduates.

News from our university corporate members

Monash University – Institute of Transport Studies

With the impacts of COVID, changes of government at national level, and a rapidly changing technological, economic, social and environmental context in transport and mobility across Australia and our region, the challenge for Monash University is to ensure that our focus in education and research keeps up with, and gets ahead of, what is happening in the industry, to ensure that we are responding to the needs of our students, and industry stakeholders.

We are currently very focused on ensuring that we are getting that right, in particular that what we teach and how we teach it, is as good as it can possibly be. Listening to and engaging with our students is an essential part of this process.

University of Sydney – Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies

ITLS celebrated the success of the Institute and students at the annual awards evening held on 21 May 2022 at the University of Sydney. It was a fantastic opportunity to come together, recollect on a successful year and provide an opportunity for some of their high achieving students to meet their lecturers in person for the first time. Congratulations to all award recipients.

Looking to do a short course in a transport field? ITLS has a [number of short course offerings available](#).

Registrations are now open for Thredbo 17, the seventeenth iteration of the International Conference Series on Competition and Ownership in Land Passenger Transport. The event will be held at the Grace Hotel in Sydney, Australia from 4–8 September 2022. Full details, including the registration link are available from the [Thredbo website](#).

The ITLS Chair in Public Transport, Professor John Nelson, has co-authored a new book with colleagues Kathryn Logan (University of Arizona) and Astley Hastings (University of Aberdeen). *Transport in a net zero world: transitioning towards low carbon public transport* discusses the importance of transitioning from conventionally fuelled personal vehicles towards low carbon electric and hydrogen public transport. It is published by Springer and available to order via [their website](#).

Branch updates

ACT

The ACT branch hosted a local webinar titled, 'Active Transport in Canberra – Networks, Routes and Intersections' on 16 March 2022. The speakers presented insights on three levels of active travel network planning and design, including network planning, route planning and intersection design.

The next webinar being planned is about electric vehicles, with the likely topic being related to planning, sustainable development, and ownership. Other events being planned for the second half of the year include the following:

- Webinar series – Rebuilding Infrastructure Projects (title TBC): this webinar series will explore the current problems in the way infrastructure projects are undertaken in Australia. This is a joint event with the TAs NSW branch.
- Webinar on Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs) – possible collaboration with the Australia and New Zealand Driverless Vehicle Initiative (ADVI). Specific topic is yet to be confirmed as discussions with ADVI are still ongoing.

NSW

Committee composition - Nicole Badstuber was appointed to the committee.

Events

The committee is actively arranging a number of events, the first of which is as follows:

- Designing for Walking – July date to be confirmed
- Alternative pavement design technologies - to be confirmed
- Integrated transport planning – new TFNSW framework plus case study of the Ryde CC Integrated Transport Strategy - to be confirmed

QLD

The Queensland Branch were pleased to host their first webinar for 2022 being the 'Effective Business Cases for Transport Infrastructure' which was well attended and generated an engaging Q&A session with host Phil Charles and panelists from Hadron Group, Nine Squared and Infrastructure Australia.

Our committee also recently represented TAs at a Brisbane Inner Spark workshop facilitated by Brisbane City Council, which involved collaboration with Australian Institute of Architects, Australia Institute of Landscape Architects and Urban Development Institute of Australia group bodies to generate ideas around core themes to revitalise Inner Brisbane in the lead up to the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

On 6 June our branch engaged with Brisbane based students through presenting to 2nd year Civil Engineering students at QUT about the role of TAs, as well as providing guidance on the many pathways and opportunities within the transport sector.

Finally, our committee has expanded further through welcoming new mid-year member additions in Jason van Passen and Gavin Nicholls. We look forward to drawing on their expertise to support industry improvements to address the significant transportation infrastructure pipeline ahead for Queensland.

VIC

The Victorian Branch has been busy planning our national webinar on sustainable transport in August. We look forward to continuing the conversation on this topic, which is at the front of the national agenda on transport.

We were excited to host the National Executive face to face annual meeting in Melbourne and it was highly beneficial to be back at the best in class Engineer's Australia office on Bourke Street. We were excited to discuss directly the challenges our members are facing with the CEO of Engineers Australia Nick Fleming. We were excited to host a webinar on Italy's Genoa-Milan high-capacity railway line project as part of Engineers Australia's Thought Leadership series, you can find it on Engineers Australia OnDemand.

We are always seeking new faces for the committee so if you are interested please email tasvictoria@outlook.com.

SA

With the new State Government in South Australia, following the March election, we are hoping to get the new SA Chief Engineer to meet with the TAs Committee in the next two months.

There have been a few changes in the SA committee. Arsham Abyaneh has joined the committee as a Student member. Lindsay Oxlad is stepping away from the committee for the rest of the year and an invitation for nominations as a new NEC representative for SA will be advertised shortly.

WA:

On 5 May the WA committee's Emmerson Richardson presented at the national webinar providing an overview of the TAs discussion paper on Urban Transport Systems. The event detailed the main findings of the Urban Transport Systems discussion paper prepared by the Transport Australia society and published by Engineers Australia. It is part of a series of engagements with a wide range of stakeholders to obtain feedback on: the need for change; the merits of the proposed new transport planning paradigm; and the guiding principles by which the new paradigm identified for urban transport may be implemented in Australian practice.

The WA committee has several further events well progressed in the planning for 2022, including a panel discussion on Public Transport in a post-COVID world, planned for August, and a regionally based event on the topic of some of the significant transport developments in the South West of WA.

One of these significant developments is WA's Albany Ring Road project, which was one of two transport projects featured in the aforementioned Student Membership

Working Group (SMWG) inaugural national webinar for aspiring students and emerging graduates. Aaron van der Heyden, Design Manager for Albany Ring Road and Team Leader of the Digital Delivery section at Jacobs in WA, spoke about how this project will provide a heavy haulage route around the City of Albany to allow large freight trucks to bypass local traffic to and from the Port of Albany. In this context, the Albany Ring Road project is an important piece of transport infrastructure for the City of Albany, to improve freight productivity, improve accessibility and improve road safety. Aaron explained some of the sustainable practices being employed on the project such as the design modification to reduce the overall vegetation clearing required to almost 50 per cent. Digital engineering as an efficient and coordinated way of project delivery was also covered to achieve great outcomes on the project. Attending students were given an insight into how they can start preparing themselves for what the engineering future holds in the digital space.

If you are interested in learning more about this or any of the upcoming TAs National Student Webinars, please feel free to contact Tanya in WA on tanya.moran@stantec.com.

TAS

Whilst the weather in Tasmania is cooling down, the Tasmanian Transport Australia society branch is only heating up. Tasmania received approval from their Local Engineers Australia branch on May 19 to become a fully-fledged TAs branch! Congratulations to all involved. Formal branch nominations are underway and hopefully by the next newsletter, the new Tasmania Committee will be here to bring you all things from the southern island. In the meantime, for any questions regarding TAs in Tasmania, please contact [Mark Johnson](#), [Andrew Holmes](#), or for student enquiries [Yi Yang](#).

NT

TAs NT had a great gathering with some CDU alumni on 23 May, held at the Engineers Australia office in Darwin. Seven new members joined the society, and Mr. Sumanesena was selected as the outreach and communication officer on the committee. In a quick survey, members showed their preference for attending face to face events and site visits. This was enough reason to add an asphalt factory site visit to TAs NT events list in 2022. TAs NT members catch up in monthly gatherings where speakers are invited for short talks followed by Q&A sessions.

TAs NT is committed to responding to the local engineering challenges in NT remote areas, and therefore, this year's events are mostly around remote projects. Some events planned for 2022 include two way learning through remote projects, engineering considerations in remote construction and remote road construction.

Corporate members contribute to ongoing TAs papers and industry submissions to make sure views of the industry are represented with government at both the state and commonwealth levels.

Click on the [corporate members website page](#) to access the list of corporate members and a short bio of each. TAs welcomes the ongoing support of our corporate members, all of whom are listed below:

- AECOM Australia Pty Ltd
- Aurecon Australasia Pty Ltd
- Data Audit Systems Pty Ltd
- Deloitte
- Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)
- EG
- Griffith University Cities Research Institute
- GTA Consultants
- Indus Engineering Pty Ltd
- Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies
- Lambert & Rehbein (SEQ) Pty Ltd
- Matrix Traffic & Transport Data Pty Ltd
- NATSIC
- NineSquared
- PSA Consulting (Australia)
- Research & Analytics Pty Ltd
- Rhelm Pty Ltd
- SMEC Australia Pty Ltd
- Strailastic Pty Ltd
- Transmax Pty Ltd
- Veitch Lister Consulting

Welcome to SMEC Australia Pty Ltd

As a member of the Surbana Jurong Group of companies, SMEC is part of a family of specialist firms. Collaborating closely with our parent and sister companies, we have the flexibility to operate in global markets either individually or in partnership to add value. With 120 offices in 40 countries and 16,000 employees, SMEC is able to offer a complete package of advanced engineering services to resolve complex challenges within roads, highways, rail, metro, airports, hydropower and renewable energy markets.

TAs NEC update

The TAs National Executive Committee (NEC) conducted its first face-to-face two day planning session in April, the first since 2019.

The meeting was held at Engineers Australia's Melbourne office and was attended by all State and Territory branches of Tas. The meeting enabled successful collaboration and engaging discussions arriving at actions to be implemented by the National Executive Committee EC and Branch Committees.

Topics discussed:

- Review of TAs activities and our 2021 survey and SWOT analysis
- Membership growth and engagement (including student, full and corporate levels)
- Working Group initiatives in relation to advocacy / media pieces
- CPD Events (including national webinars and branch seminars)
- National Transport Conference development including themes and guest speakers
- Transport Area of Practice
- Women in Transport initiatives
- Northern Territory and Tasmania Branch establishment activities to complete TAs national representation and engagement
- Transport Industry Partners
- Student Membership Working Group updates following strong growth in 2021-22
- Outlining the plans for establishing the 'Future of Transport' directions paper

It was a pleasure to meet the local Victoria TAs Branch Committee colleagues on Thursday over lunch, including Oliver Yang, James Warfe, Lachlan Lee-Archer and Chris Loader.

A highlight of the two-day planning session was the hosting of Engineers Australia National President Nick Fleming, where the following key items were discussed:

- constitutional responsibility to advance the science and practice of engineering for the benefit of the community
- Future Now (Learned Society review)
- Effective volunteer network
- Budget alignment to strategy
- Proactive communication (through media)

- Balancing opportunity and impact (balancing scalability and risk)
- Creating roundtables for highest priority actions

The TAs National Executive Committee look forward to executing on the many initiatives and plans for TAs in 2022.