

Dear TAs Colleagues,

As we come to a close of 2020, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to Transport Australia society.

It has been a tough year as we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to present new challenges in many aspects of our lives. TAs has been fortunate to increase its collaboration and engagement through this period virtually, particularly with regard to advocacy and CPD. In 2020, TAs has seen the welcome of new corporate members, progressed with the discussion papers, conducted corporate member and student member surveys, conducted a series of national webinars, and established a student membership working group.

I have the privilege of working with the helpful EA staff, a strong and supportive TAs National Executive Committee, our many TAs members who volunteered with drafting of submissions and discussion papers and all of the TAs branch committee members who underpin everything we do. As we all look forward to a beautiful holiday season, the TAs national executive is already thinking ahead about 2021 and how we can build on the great work of 2020!

### **2020 in Review**

The activities undertaken this year are outlined in the TAs newsletters (Jan, April, July, Oct). A summary of activities includes:

- Chair Special mentions (Florentina Mihai, Jerome Catbagan) and their views on Future Transport
- Established TAs Branch in ACT, and interim branches in Northern Territory & Tasmania
- Successfully delivered national webinars (e.g. COVID Impact on Transport, Road Safety, Climate Change & Transport)
- Experienced growth in all levels of membership – students, full and corporate (new in 2020: Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, Griffith University & Metis)
- Heard what university students have to say about transport engineering education, and what they believe are the priority transport issues in Australia
- Thought leadership contributions from TAs members on transport matters
- Established a Student Membership Working Group to elevate TAs' status as the organisation of choice for students interested in a transport industry related career
- Awarded 2020 Transport Medal to Professor Graham Currie

### **2021 in Brief**

- Progress Discussion Papers relating to water-based and air-based transport of freight & passengers, universal access to transport and rail transport, with working groups across Australia
- Focus interaction with all membership categories

- Update TAs executive plan and TAs handbook at the March Planning Workshop with input from an online membership survey
- Continue branch level CPD events (including events in Tasmania, Northern Territory & ACT)
- Consider partnerships with a handful of organisations that are also focusing on transport infrastructure and services (policy, planning & delivery)
- Commence the process of 2022 Transport Medal
- Initiate the next (early 2022) TAs national transport conference committee, budget and planning
- Proactively consider and participate in national transport advocacy opportunities

In closing, I wish to encourage TAs members to reach out to the future generations of professionals interested in transport and to embrace collaboration with transport partners in 2021. My very best wishes to you all for a safe and happy holiday season.



**Shalendra Ram**

Chair, TAs National Executive

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