

Dear TAs Colleagues,

It was a tough 2020 as we navigated 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 in the last several months through CPD events (national webinars), the Student Membership Working Group's strategic planning exercise and our advocacy initiatives (discussion papers and submissions).

I am pleased to welcome the TAs national executive members for 2021 (see some of them mentioned later in this newsletter). Coincidentally, the members are the respective TAs branch chairs with a cross-section of private sector and governmental backgrounds. As the TAs national executive, we are committed to ensuring our engineering profession deliver what is best for the community and future generations in the transport sector. I am keen to see TAs continue to meet our student, professional and corporate membership needs. We are doing well with 400 TAs members and 700 TAs LinkedIn members, who are encouraged to convert.

TAs will place a keen interest in mentoring and guiding the next generation through collaboration with universities across Australia that teach transport courses and subjects. I also believe in embracing our corporate partners and inviting them to engage with TAs via specially planned events and contributions at the branch and national levels.

I look forward to working with the TAs national executive and the TAs branches, with a continued focus on TAs being a credible voice for our members in the transport sector. In closing, I trust you will enjoy this newsletter, and we look forward to a prosperous 2021 for all.

Kind regards,



**Shalendra Ram**

Chair, TAs National Executive

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## Student member update

The Student Membership Working Group (SMWG) successfully closed out 2020 with an agreed student engagement strategy supported by a detailed action plan.

TAs has confirmed the SMWG members for 2021, which includes representation from all branches and several new volunteers. It is exciting to witness the intent of the

strategy start to be (informally) implemented with SMWG using their network of university connections to attract new members.

Many branches will be aware of the strategy's development through member representation on the SMWG. TAs intends to socialise the strategy developed by the SMWG with all branches in the first quarter of 2021. This will enable the strategy to be tested with the branch committees and support a consistent implementation approach.

To ensure we maintain the momentum from 2020, the SMWG is focussed on implementing the initial actions identified in the strategy. The significant efforts of Oliver Yang and Madison Elliott have ensured that we have completed 80% of the initial actions and now have:

- An understanding of the CPD requirements of universities.
- Information relating to University points of contact and draft position description for student representatives.
- A draft slide pack on the benefits of membership for students.

An important action yet to be completed is to build a picture of current student engagement activities across all branches. This will enable us to understand and leverage existing examples of good practice that can be shared nationally and support a consistent and targeted approach to increased student engagement and membership.

The SMWG is looking forward to working with you all in 2021 on the implementation of the student engagement strategy.

## Advocacy

### *DISCUSSION PAPERS*

#### **Aviation Transport Infrastructure**

The discussion paper is intended to inform discussions contributing to Australia's aviation economy, which is essential for communities, industries, businesses, and tourism. The paper's focus is on the airport, from the air to the land side, including transport infrastructure planning and engineering, today and in the future.

#### **Universal Access to Transport**

The discussion paper is intended to give practical guidance to transport professionals on how they should incorporate consideration of universal access in the transport context into their work. It should be seen as a statement of principles and objectives and does not replace or supersede Engineers obligations under other engineering guidelines and standards. The paper focusses on the concept of focussing on universal access rather than access for those with a disability.

## *SUBMISSIONS (NOV 2020 - FEB 2021)*

### **Submission to BCC NWTN**

TAs contributed to Engineers Australia's submission to Brisbane City Council in response to the North West Transport Network Business Case. It was suggested that further assessment is required, and further consultation is necessary to determine a preferred solution as the options developed by the Council are at this stage unclear. The artist impressions provided, which show a variety of different modes, appear to be the only demonstration of the options considered and do not provide detail.

### **Submission to BCC West End & Toowong Green Bridges**

TAs contributed to Engineers Australia's submission to the Green Bridges Program, which will provide the city with significant environmental, health and accessibility benefits for the city's residents. The hastening of the investment in this program is, in part, a response to Covid-19's impact on the increased take-up of active transport, particularly cycling, as a positive step for the city's liveability. Engineers Australia encourages the Council to broaden the program to include planning for a network of Green Bridges to service the inner city and connect the radial cycling corridors that service the wider city catchment.

## *PARTICIPATION IN INDUSTRY FORUMS*

### **Consultation workshops on the Draft Medium Density Codes, Feb 2021 (WA)**

WA TAs representatives (2) attended the Design WA's Planners Workshop to better understand the proposed Medium Density Design Code and provide the attendees with insight into how land use impacts the transportation network. A working group led by TAs reps will prepare a formal submission by 16 April as it was identified that there is a need to better communicate the policy in the context of existing planning policy on where medium density housing can be provided and where it is not suitable.

### **The Australia Government, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, Future Fuels Strategy - EA Feedback**

TAs representatives (3) are providing input to the EA response to the Future Fuels Strategy. A draft outline response has already been prepared. This will be developed over the consultation period.

## **New committee members**



### David Lowe (NSW Chair)

David Lowe has extensive international knowledge of traffic and transport management from an operational perspective. He has improved network efficiency through the application of advances in traffic management technology, known as Intelligent Transport Systems. David held senior positions in the field of traffic management within Roads and Maritime Services (now Transport for NSW), culminating in the position of Manager, Transport Operations at the NSW Transport Management Centre where he was responsible for the real-time management

of the state road network in NSW.

David has over 30 years of experience in the transport infrastructure sector developing traffic management and incident response plans for some of the most complex built infrastructure and construction activity in Australia. Since becoming a consultant, David has led the development of many traffic and transport assessments as part of Environmental Assessments of major infrastructure projects.

Using his road network operations experience to inform the decision-making process.

David joined the inaugural NSW TAs Branch committee in 2015, where he has fulfilled the positions of Treasurer, Deputy Chair and was elected to Chair of the NSW Branch in January this year.



### Peter Wills (Victoria Chair)

Peter is looking forward to 2021 as Victoria plans for the second TAs national conference in 2022. Peter is an experienced transport infrastructure professional and has worked in Europe, Asia and Australia on complex transport projects. Peter has delivered rail and surface transport infrastructure, the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and a range of land use precincts.

Peter, a Tasmanian, enjoys a bit of cycling and running, enjoys sleep deprivation due to his two young kids and European sports. A passionate

Tottenham Hotspur supporter, he hopes one day that glory returns to North London.



## David Hayward (Queensland Chair)

David has over 15 years' experience as a traffic engineer and transport planner. He has been actively involved within EA's Transport Australia society over the past three years in the roles of Secretary and Deputy Chair. He has extensively delivered small-to-medium transport engineering assessments across Queensland, as well as being involved in a wide range of large-scale infrastructure, transport planning and modelling projects such as WestConnex (Sydney), Brisbane Mesoscopic Aimsun Model and the Sydney

CBD and South East Light Rail Project.

Further to his work experience, David extended his education and skills through completing a Masters in Traffic and Transport at Monash University. This greatly enhanced his appreciation of the latest transport planning and policy concepts, complimenting his project experience for understanding how they are best applied to achieve practical, sustainable and valuable transport outcomes.

With a critical period of population growth along with environmental, health and economic challenges ahead for Queensland and globally over the next decade, David is committed to delivering enhanced and practical transport outcomes for our communities. He looks forward to maximising the role and influence of the transportation industry in this space through Transport Australia society initiatives.

## Corporate members and partners

### New Corporate Members

TAs will shortly be contacting corporate members nationally to attend the first 2021 Round Table discussion. Corporate member sessions in each state are also planned for 2021, and we welcome your suggestions as to matters of importance.

Corporate members also 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 Member](#) website page link 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
- GTA Consultants
- Griffith University
- Lambert & Rehbein (SEQ) Pty Ltd
- Matrix Traffic & Transport Data Pty Ltd
- NATSIC
- NineSquared
- PSA Consulting (Australia)
- Research & Analytics Pty Ltd
- Rhelm Pty Ltd
- Transmax Pty Ltd
- Veitch Lister Consulting

## Upcoming events

### TAs National Conference

After successfully hosting the first TAs national conference in Sydney in 2019, we are looking forward to hosting our next conference online and in Melbourne in March/April 2022. We are in the early stages of planning the conference and are closely watching developments in online, blended and in-person conferences throughout 2021 to ensure we are making the best offering for the industry.

We look forward to sharing more information and hearing from you about the conference in the coming months before a more formal launch of the themes and a format for registrations is ready in the second half of 2021.

### More Upcoming Events (May-July 2021)

March – Maritime Transport Infrastructure on EA approved Discussion Paper

April – Movement and Place: Current Australian Practice

May – Aviation Transport Discussion Paper

June – Electric Vehicles, Policy and Impacts

July – Universal Access to Transport Discussion Paper

## **RECENT EVENTS**

### ***3 February - Integrating Multi-Modal end to end Journey Transportation and their Interaction.***

Multi-modal integrated transport enables and encourages travellers to utilise various modes of transport throughout their journey. It greatly assists with the accessibility of a city by allowing seamless transfer between transport modes. The webinar started by introducing the current and future state of the NSW multi-modal transport system. It then focused on how to accommodate a multi-modal representation of transport services into strategic model systems.

**Registrations:** 439

**Speakers:** Howard Collins, Prof David Hensher, Peter Hyland, Tessa Knox-Grant

### ***18 February - Household Travel Survey in the era of big data***

This 90-minute webinar provides a synopsis of contemporary practices in household travel surveys in Australia, including the continuing importance of effective sampling techniques, with some examples of where new technologies are being applied.

**Registrations:** 224

**Speakers:** Tim Wyatt, Mark Davis, Elizabeth Stark, Steven Piotrowski