

Welcome to the **January 2020 TAs newsletter** and happy reading!

2020 started with the devastating fires, which brought together everyone in Australia and globally to assist with not only the firefighting efforts but also the recovery. Transport Australia society will be participating with other groups in Engineers Australia, Academia and ISCA to develop an Issues Paper “Reshaping Infrastructure for a Net Zero Emissions Future” scheduled for release in the 1st quarter of 2020. Together with this, there is also a plan to develop a Discussion Paper focused on achieving a net zero emissions future in transport and it is important that TAs is engaged in this important work. It is intended that these papers provide a basis for discussion to inform further reports and recommendations, fact sheets and modelling focus in future.

Engineers Australia is also putting together a list of EA members from relevant colleges and technical societies with a brief rundown on their areas of expertise as it is anticipated that, as the media focus evolves from covering the fires to rebuilding infrastructure, media enquiries will increase.

2020 has also seen the election and appointment of the TAs Executive Committee for 2020-2021. I'm pleased to share that the executive positions have remained unchanged from 2018/19 (Chair – Shalendra Ram, Deputy Chair – Lachlan Lee-Archer and Treasurer – Scott Elaurant). The other members of the TAs Executive Committee include (Geoff Webb – Tasmania; Scott Elaurant – South Australia, Lachlan Lee-Archer – Victoria, Mike Veysey – NSW, David Field -ACT, David Hayward – Queensland, Mathew Vittuci – NT and Flori Mihai – WA). The first quarter of 2020 includes plans to undertake member surveys (normal & corporate) so that we remain relevant to member needs, including ongoing CPD events, advocacy positions on transport matters be it at all three levels of government.

Other key activities on TAs' agenda include:

- progress Discussion Papers relating to water based and air-based transport of freight & passengers with working groups across Australia,
- focused interaction with all membership categories – student, member and corporate,
- revise TAs Plan for 2020 & 2021 at the March Planning Workshop with input from an online membership survey,
- continue TAs branch level CPD events (including events in Tasmania, Northern Territory and the ACT),
- consider partnerships with a handful of organisations' that are also focusing on transport infrastructure and services (policy, planning & delivery),
- Award 2020 Transport Medal in March 2020 in conjunction with the Civil College,
- start planning the next TAs which we anticipate will take place late 2021 or early 2022 in Melbourne, and
- proactively participate in national transport advocacy opportunities.

TAs membership continues to grow to ensure there is a united voice for all professions interested in transport.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and introduce a TAs colleague who has been part of transport groups within Engineers Australia and has had a long transport career. Thank you to Flori Mihai for her contributions to TAs and transport engineering. Flori is the 2019 & 2020 TAs WA Branch Chair and she is supported by a strong group of Committee members. You can read more about Flori and her insights on the future of transport in Australia in this newsletter.

We are looking forward to continuing to meet member needs in 2020 with a focus on increasing our student memberships through planned interactions and activities with universities around Australia that teach transport subjects, with our corporate member roundtables and lastly our well planned and run member CPD events. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact myself or anyone of the executive at transport@engineersaustralia.org.au.



Shalendra Ram
Chair, TAs National Executive
E: transport@engineersaustralia.org.au

CORPORATE MEMBERS

We welcome our new Corporate Members: The Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and Research & Analytics Pty Ltd and Griffith University. See all of TAs' corporate members at [this link](#).

Matrix, a TAs corporate member and sponsor of our June 2019 National Transport Conference is celebrating 15 years of service to the transport industry. TAs congratulates Matrix and wishes them well for the future.

Matrix CEO, Martin Prowse said "2020 is a pivotal year for traffic data collection". Matrix wishes to bring the following key points to the attention of TAs members:

- **AI** improvements have meant that AI is now part of the traffic survey world. Suitable for specific environments, AI can increase the data pool as well as deliver efficient data fees.
- **Cloud based storage.** Not just a filing cabinet in the sky, these cloud platforms have smarts and can store, organise and analyse traffic data.
- **Communications** speed and cost. Better speeds, more data at lower costs will increase efficiencies.

- The **right mix**. Big Data is not the buzz word it was 3 years ago. Smart big data is more accurate. Knowing where and when to use it.
- **Many tools** for traffic surveying, from manual surveyors to AI and big data. The key is where and when to use the appropriate methodology.

Matrix has combined all these improvements and will launch platform during 2020 that will take advantage of these advances.

SPECIAL MENTION: FLORENTINA MIHAI



Education:

Bachelor in Transportation Technology, Polytechnic Institute Bucharest, Romania.

Post Grad Diploma in Business Management, Edith Cowan University, Perth, WA.

Other qualifications

Building and Construction Contract Law, Notre-Dame University, Perth, WA.

Leadership, Curtin University, Perth

Biography

Railway engineer for several years in Romania, including Chief Division Traffic Operations at MetroRail, Bucharest, followed by moving into the road transportation field in Western Australia in management roles including: asset performance, maintenance investment, asset management policy and planning, data planning and standards, project services, route and network planning. Project Manager and co-author of several Austroads reports, and co-author of asset management guidance published by the international Institute of Asset Management.

History with EA and TAs

A Member of EA for over 20 years, civil and electrical colleges, member of the former Transport Panel for over 15 years and one of the founding members of the Transport Australia society, WA Branch and currently the WA Branch Chair

View on the current transport system and the change we need now

(These comments are personal views and not those of the respondent's employer or TAs)

Car remains the preferred mode of travel in Australia, and car occupancy rate is still very low (below 1.5), both a legacy of geographically wide spread cities and old mentality. However, I do think young generations are already forcing the shift from car centric towards public transport, ride share, Uber, and even deciding not to own a car; something rarely considered in the past. Some of the key catalysts for the cultural change include: higher awareness and concerns about carbon emissions and climate change; increased road congestion; business disruptors such as electrical and self-driving vehicles, Uber; communities being more vocal about the need for better

transport and land planning integration and the facilitation of liveable activity hubs; mobility as a service (MaaS). I think the recent years are showing a positive shift in transport policy in Australia and certainly in WA, with more emphasis on public transport and rail options being given a fairer go. Transport Agencies at all levels of government need to keep up with the current shifts in public opinion and community needs and deliver transportation policies and strategies that reflect and address societal changes. Better integration is required between all levels of government in order to achieve this task, and more collaboration with the private sector to foster innovative solutions.

What would you like to see addressed in the future of transport?

(These comments are personal views and not those of the respondent's employer or TAs)

I imagine a future of multiple and equitable transport options, where the users/community have a much greater influence into shaping transportation policy through the further development of MaaS platforms, utilisation of block chain technology in decision making, and the future wave of digital revolution. I envisage a vibrant, multifaceted, integrated, resilient and sustainable transportation system including: high speed rail linking major Australian cities; better usage of freight options on rail and a unified national rail freight system; modern intermodal hubs; a revamped regional airports strategy; port operations planned for the future and utilisation of new technologies to improve supply chain efficiency; safer transportation with the full uptake of connected and automated vehicles; extended and connected pedestrian, bicycle, e-scooter networks with "pick as you need" facilities; a robust public transport with better connectivity between modes. Investment is required to develop the future generations of transportation professionals, with consideration of the new and multidisciplinary skills they need to acquire to be able to shape and deliver the transportation needs for the next decades, as required and deserved by Australians and to support the economic growth of the country.