



Dear TAs colleagues,

I would like to take to start by thanking all our TAs members for renewing their membership and continuing to support and contribute to the success of TAs. Here is a snapshot of what's been happening:

- TAs national conference (Transport 2024) has been postponed to 9-10 May 2024; planning for speakers and sponsorship is progressing by Peter Wills (conference chair) and the conference working group.
- Engineers Australia and TAs' Future of Transport Directions paper is with EA for endorsement and upon approval will be the basis of EA advocacy in late 2023 and beyond.
- TAs is discussing with EA about 'Transport: Area of Practice' and starting to also share the plan with transport industry partners.
- TAs is continuing to collaborate with its industry partners (eg, ITSA, AITPM, ITE, CILTA; ACRS).
- TAs Working Groups (WGs) are undertaking their own collaborative activities, planning national webinars, and contributing to EA advocacy.

TAs NEC will also be consulting with EA's Chief Engineer and CEO on the abovementioned items. Below is a summary from the TAs Working Groups activities with further details provided later in this newsletter.

Women in Transport (Chair, Prue Oswin)

- In May 2023, an online webinar was hosted on 'leading the way to more gender inclusive transport' and contributed to TAs Urban Transport Systems Discussion Paper.
- Our intention is to explore case studies, and examples of how this knowledge can be embedded in practice: planning a potential event around women and cycling and collaboration events with other industry groups such as IAQ (something that is still in the works).

Students (Chair, Madison Elliott)

- We continue to meet to progress activities in line with the EA vision plan with activities prioritised in the four focus groups including our new postgraduate network.
- The goal to support students interested in a career in transport is backed by our commitment to deliver CPD events, engage with universities and incorporate students into the TAs National Conference.

Rail (Chair, Chris Baker)

- A panel discussion on the future of interoperability of Australian rail at the UIC conference on Interoperability in Melbourne (June 23).
- Event planning for the CPD event on Fast Rail is continuing with the finalisation of the panel (late October or November 2023).
- Interaction with the National Transport Commission.

Maritime (Chair, Adrian Sammons)

- Emerging focus areas for the group are coastal chipping, decarbonisation, port productivity and supporting regional maritime development in the Pacific Islands. Commenced refining potential focus areas and national webinars.
- Chair of Maritime Working Group was a guest speaker and moderator of sessions at the UN – IMO conference May 2023 in Manila, Philippines ‘Seizing opportunities for green shipping in Asia and the Pacific’ and the Pacific Maritime Transport Alliance Honiara, Solomon Islands July 2023 which addressed climate change and sustainability.

Aviation (Chair, Scott Martin)

- Advanced Air Mobility webinar ‘Advanced air mobility ground infrastructure requirements’ is planned for September 2023.
- A submission from TAs to the Australian Government’s Aviation White Paper Terms of Reference process, in March 2023.
- Aviation Green Paper will be released in August/September 2023 and TAs will provide a response.

TAs currently has three Technical WGs that are progressing their work and brief updates are summarised as follows. Following finalisation of the discussion papers, the WG will plan for national webinars and advocacy with key stakeholders and partners.

Urban Transport Systems (Chair, Emmerson Richardson)

- WG has been meeting monthly to update the discussion paper, to a Policy and Planning Advice paper, to give clearer direction on specific actions for members. This has been compiled with most of the original WFG members who compiled the discussion paper.
- The updated paper has been submitted to EA for approval.

Road Pricing (Chair, David Lowe)

- WG has been meeting monthly to make decisions for the discussion paper, with the paper’s purpose, objectives, context and need for change confirmed. Following the preparation of the assessment criteria for the options analysis, the group is currently working through options analysis of potential road pricing and investment schemes to include in the paper.
- WG Chair is set to reach out to industry reviewers to make sure we have industry experts peer reviewing the report context.

Road Safety (Chair, Dr Brett Hughes)

- The April TAs national webinar ‘The pursuit for solutions in road safety and safe systems’ has been rerecorded and is now available on [EA OnDemand](#).
- The TAs Road Safety Discussion Paper is progressing while the Chair, Dr Brett Hughes is overseas to an international road safety event. When completed the paper will be independently reviewed before submission to EA/TAs for acceptance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the above pieces of volunteering activities with the WGs for TAs.

Personally, I have started with SMEC in a national transport role recently and whilst travelling across ANZ and meeting clients, I have updated some government agency colleagues on the success and activities of TAs and at the same time, I have been catching up with TAs branch committee colleagues. There is never enough time and effort available when one is volunteering, so everyone who continues to assist with the success of TAs is to be congratulated.

The 2023 Transport Medal nominations were received a few months ago and small group of TAs colleague assisted EA with the evaluation and selection of winner.

This year's four nominations:

- Mary Haverland
- Tim Parker
- Dennis Walsh
- Michelle Zeibots.

All nominees are outstanding professionals with significant contribution to transportation in Australia and overseas.

The Transport Australia society judging panel's assessment and recommendation for the 2023 winner was provided to Engineers Australia on July 25, according to the required timeframe. The Transport Medal Award is part of the suite of Engineers Australia Awards and will be announced by EA early in September.

Please take the chance to introduce yourself as TAs member through your workplaces and as you participate in transport sector events. I look forward to meeting TAs branch committee members across ANZ in the next months. Happy reading and take care.



Shalendra Ram

Chair, Transport Australia society

E: transport@engineersaustralia.org.au

ADVOCACY

TAS Advocacy in First Quarter 2023

TAS Advocacy on transport and related matters has continued both within EA and to external bodies. The primary means of this occurring has been through discussions with government and industry prompted by TAS' discussion papers. This is continuing via round table meetings with State transport ministers and senior officers, such as occurred in Queensland and **Western Australia**.

TAS has made contributions to two key Engineers Australia policy initiatives. The first is the Future of Transport (FOT) Discussion Paper. The FOT discusses pathways to a sustainable, decarbonised transport network including looking at transport through systems view and enabling greater collaboration for project planning and funding. TAS members contributed to the preparation of the FOT paper. In addition, material in the FOT paper was drawn from previously published TAS papers, including Climate Change and Transport and Urban Transport Systems.

[The future of transport discussion paper](#)

engineersaustralia.org.au

The second EA initiative in which TAS members were heavily involved was the EA submission to the Federal government on an Electric Vehicles strategy, and a Fuel Efficiency Standard. These again both drew heavily on the TAS paper Climate Change and Transport.

Following the release of the Urban Transport Systems discussion paper in December 2021, members of TAs have been busy engaging with stakeholders. Overall the feedback has been positive. The consensus from this engagement with stakeholders is that land use and transport policy changes are required, along the lines proposed in the discussion paper. In view of the significant overlap of interests and agreement on many strategic transport and land use planning matters, the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) and TAs have agreed to collaborate on shared advocacy and development of future transport and land use policy. TAs and Engineers Australia have agreed to develop a policy and planning advice note on urban transport systems

Working Group Updates

Student Membership Working Group (SMWG)

The SMWG has welcomed the new and continuing student representatives for 2023. This group of enthusiastic students will be supporting the SMWG to deliver national initiatives in line with our vision plan as well as supporting the branches to deliver local content for students. The student representatives also have the opportunity to participate in other working groups to further their engagement in the transport industry as well as providing a fresh perspective to working group activities and discussion papers. This year we look forward to growing the outreach into new universities represented by our student representatives and continue to engage with and support our university corporate members.

Madison Elliott

Chair, Student Membership Working Group

Aviation Working Group (AWG) continues to meet monthly. The most recent meeting in February saw the AWG planning for an initial TAs response to the Terms of Reference for the Australian Government's *Aviation White Paper* and for a webinar in mid to late 2023 on the state of play on Vertiports and Advanced Air Mobility. The AWG has also welcomed a new member, Ben Hargreaves from Lambert & Rehbein who will be joining the group starting with the March meeting.

Advanced Air Mobility webinar – Aviation Working Group (AWG) member Dorian Notman has organised a TAS webinar on Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) to take place on 27 September 2023. The webinar is titled 'Advanced air mobility ground infrastructure requirements' with presenters including AWG members Dorian Notman (RMIT) as host and Anthony Cicutini from Brisbane Airport, along with Professor Jennifer Palmer (RMIT) and Joe Hain (CASA). More details on the Webinar including registration will be available soon through TAS.

Aviation White Paper Update – Earlier this year the AWG provided a [submission](#) from TAS to the Australian Government's Aviation White Paper Terms of Reference process. It is likely that the Aviation Green Paper (the next stage of the White Paper) process will be released in August/September 2023. The AWG is ready to lead the TAS response to the Aviation Green Paper.

Scott Martin

Chair, Aviation Working Group

Road Safety Working Group was fairly quiet in 2022 mainly due to the Federal election and the hiatus while waiting for the National Road Safety Strategy Action Plan, which was frustrated by conflicting state opinions. Despite the lack of improvement in road safety for the last five years, government interest and action are not high. Automobile associations and other organisations and individuals have expressed their concerned about this. The Commonwealth released the 2023–25 National Road Safety Strategy Action Plan in December 2022, which TAs engaged on. The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator released its revised Action Plan in February 2023, which TAs had earlier commented on. The first meeting of the reconstituted TAs Road Safety Working Group (RSWG) was held 3 March 2023. The group has an excellent range of valuable skills, knowledge and experience in road safety and other relevant fields. The RSWG has diverse representation from different ages, backgrounds and all states. The priority for 2023 will be to revise the Road Safety Discussion Paper.

Brett Hughes

Interim Chair, Road safety Working Group

Women in Transport Working Group continues to grow. Over the last two months we have been developing our vision statement, identifying key themes for advocacy and developing a submission for the Future of Transport Systems Discussion paper. We have developed a proposal for a webinar to be held later this year and are experimenting with new ways to collaborate, as a nationwide group. The group is chaired by Prue Oswin. Deputy Chair is Adriana Gowthaman and Nidhi Rajput is Secretary.

Prue Oswin

Chair, Women in Transport

Maritime Working Group (MWG) will switch to meeting monthly from March 2023. The February meetings saw the MWG discuss the option to provide feedback on the Australian Government Productivity Commission's inquiry report into Australia's maritime logistics system, performance, competition, industrial relations, infrastructure constraints and technology uptake. The MWG Chair attended and moderated sessions at the inaugural Green Port Oceania Congress 15-17 Feb hosted by Newcastle Port. The MWG is seeking to recruit new State members to join the group and we hope to report success at the March meeting. We have also started to discuss our approach and value contribution to the federal government announcement in Jan 2023 to establish a new task force to investigate a proposed Australian Maritime Strategic Fleet of commercial trading vessels.

Adrian Sammons

Chair, Maritime Working Group

Road Pricing Discussion Paper Working Group has been formed to review and update the TAs 2019 discussion paper on road pricing. The existing TAs road pricing discussion paper (2019) noted that road pricing in Australia has traditionally been seen as a means of funding new road links (toll roads), but the purpose of road pricing in the future must be much broader to enable equity, environmental sustainability and efficiency. Correspondingly, road expenditure needs to be reformed so that the revenue raised is linked to the expenditure in a way that is more effective, efficient, sustainable and

secure. The TAs Urban Transport Systems discussion paper (2021) noted that there is a high degree of uncertainty about future travel due to the rapid evolution of digital connectivity and disruption from new technologies. Under such circumstances, there is a pressing need for transport strategies to be assessed and evaluated against much broader criteria than the narrow criteria than have been used in the past, which has prioritised vehicle mobility. This means that the purpose and the role of road pricing and investment must be re-considered along with the means by which it can be delivered. Such reform must be applied to light vehicles, which represent the greatest traffic volumes and highest externality costs, and heavy vehicles which provide the greatest value and highest operating costs. There are major and inter-related reasons why road economic reform is both necessary and urgent:

- A means of funding transport infrastructure must be found to replace commonwealth petrol and diesel excise.
- Future road pricing must be designed to maximise equity and efficiency through managing demand, with the price charged designed to reflect distance travelled, size of vehicle and the level of congestion at the time of travel.
- There are too many distortions resulting in unfair cross subsidies – remove perverse cross subsidies.
- The best choices need to be made in the allocation of scarce funds, especially in times of uncertainty and environmental threat.
- Social equity in terms of affordability and impact on community accessibility (policy needs to be acceptable to the entire cross section of the population).

David Lowe

Chair, Road Pricing Working Group

Rail Working Group achieved two key goals in 2022: The Future of Rail discussion was published and was followed by a highly successful webinar through the Engineers Australia portal. This year we have commenced our engagement and advocacy plan. Our advocacy is kicking off with contacts being made with heads of departments and industry leaders. We are looking for opportunities to present the key themes of the Future of Rail paper at conferences and to extend our engagement with other technical societies and industry associations. We have met twice this year where a key focus has been on how to help TAs members engage, contribute and shape the ongoing discussion on the future of rail. Potential options for member events have been canvassed and a short list of a few high-profile areas has been selected. We trust these will be of broad interest to help foster and shape the future. An event centred around faster rail is currently being planned. More will be provided as the plan unfolds. We are also engaged with discussions on the future of interoperability, decarbonisation and professional development, which are all crucial to the future of rail and other modes. Some of these are long term pursuits that are co-ordinated by others, however we will bring news of these to the members when practicable. The future of rail remains strong, not only for industry growth through projects, but for the potential to influence many efficiencies in our transport systems.

Chris Baker

Chair, Rail Working Group

Transport Australia society branch updates

The Tasmania committee was recently very pleased to host Bridget Doran from NZ and Shalendra Ram for a national webinar on Inclusive Active Transport, and a convivial Hobart dinner.

Our June event was a discussion on the proposed (and much debated) stadium at Macquarie Point. Now we're preparing a submission on the key transport issues.

Upcoming Events

Please keep an eye out for invitations and put them in your calendar:

- 16 August – Projects in the Pub (in conjunction with YEA and AITPM). Projects in the pub - Hobart | Engineers Australia.
- 19 September – Bus Rapid Transport plans for Hobart.
- 17 October – Traffic modelling for better transport planning.

Tasmania TAs Advocacy in first quarter 2023

TAs advocacy on transport and related matters has continued both within EA and to external bodies. The primary means of this occurring has been through discussions with government and industry prompted by our discussion papers. This is continuing via round table meetings with State transport ministers and senior officers, such as occurred in Queensland and Western Australia.

TAs has made contributions to two key Engineers Australia policy initiatives. The first is the Future of Transport (FOT) Discussion Paper. The FOT discusses pathways to a sustainable, decarbonised transport network including looking at transport through systems view and enabling greater collaboration for project planning and funding. TAs members contributed to the preparation of the FOT paper. In addition, material in the FOT paper was drawn from previously published TAs papers, including climate change and transport and urban transport systems.

The second EA initiative in which TAs members were heavily involved was the EA submission to the Federal government on an Electric Vehicles strategy, and a Fuel Efficiency Standard. These again both drew heavily on the TAs paper climate change and transport.

Please renew if your membership if you haven't already. There was a tech issue with membership renewals (apologies), but this is now fixed.

As always, we would love more people to join our branch committee. Please contact branch chair Mark Johnston at mark@2xf.com.au with any ideas or questions.

The NSW committee held its first face to face event, after a gap of two years, at the EA offices in Market St at the end of June. The event titled 'Redefining transport standards building sustainable thriving communities' was presented by the legendary transportation planner Chris Stapleton. Chris presented some thought-provoking ideas that could be the top for further discussion on how to solve the transport problems in Sydney in a more sustainable manner.

Our next event is a webinar titled 'Accelerating active transport with 30km per hour speed limit' and planned to be held on 15 August followed by another face-to-face event 'Getting pedestrian infrastructure right'.

Two office bearers from TAs NSW committee are currently on maternity leave and we are looking for a keen TAs member to take on the role of secretary on a temporary basis. If you have good communication skills and can spare approximately one hour per week to assist TAs please respond to the call for nomination sent out by EA.

In June the **TAs Queensland Branch committee** hosted its first in person breakfast since the COVID-19 pandemic, being the 'Gearing up for the Brisbane 2032 Games Transport Task'. Wholehearted thank you to the more than 50 attendees and our guest speakers [Amanda Yeates](#), [Matt Collins](#) and [Scott Smith](#) for the forthright views and discussions including:

1. Time to be decisive with the SEQ vision for this Century while amidst our 'early advantage'
2. The importance of continuing to evolve what is valued in business cases and investment to better align with what the community values and needs
3. Critical risk associated with developing Principal Activity Centres across SEQ without strong public transport connectivity

Our next event will be held on Friday 4th August at EA's auditorium in Brisbane on 'Churchill Fellowship into Light Electric Vehicles' where Michael Roth will showcase his findings and experiences from the Churchill Fellowship and what are the opportunities and challenges for Australia with light electric vehicles.

We have also been active engaging with industry and academia so far this year, highlighted by supporting the development of Queensland Walks' call to action initiative, and continuing the preparation for university student and research engagement activities with QUT, UQ and Griffith.

SA Branch Update:

South Australia has 2 upcoming events; one is a presentation by the State Government on the discussion paper which has been prepared for the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide; another is a presentation by the Department for Infrastructure and Planning on Transport Planning within SA.

A cycling presentation and discussion are also planned as well, and a careers/networking event between TAS and university students.

The TAs ACT committee is holding an in-person event on Australia's High Speed Rail Future, scheduled for October, wherein industry leaders, policymakers and engineers will gather to explore the exciting advancements in Australia's fast and high-speed rail sector. It will feature three keynote speakers, a panel discussion and networking. This is a joint event by TAs ACT and the Australasian Railway Association (ARA), with GHD as a sponsor.

A webinar is currently being planned on Smarter Car Parking Policy in the ACT, which aims to provide an overview of the current car parking challenges faced in the ACT and explore the need for changing approaches to parking policy. This final date of this event is yet to be confirmed but is expected to be sometime in the last quarter of 2023.

Another in person networking event is also being planned, which focuses on travel behaviour of Canberrans based on the analysis of the recently completed Household Travel Survey (HTS). This will likely be the last event to be hosted by the branch this calendar year.

The WA and Northern Territory committee continues to meet monthly. In April we agreed to welcome our colleagues from the Northern Territory to the committee, with an agenda to support the NT and share expertise on issues and topics of mutual interest. The WA and NT committee will meet jointly for the remainder of 2023.



In the last quarter WA has had two events: Pursuit of Solutions in Road Safety and Safe Systems, in April, given by 2022 Transport Medalist, Dr Brett Hughes, and in May a joint event with the Australasian College of Road Safety (ACRS) for National Road Safety week. Both were well attended, and the second event included a visit to exemplar sites in Perth that demonstrated some of the innovations that have been implemented to improve road safety in urban environments in WA.

The committee is continuing its engagement with industry bodies and met with the Deputy CEO of Infrastructure WA in May, to discuss TAs and EA's response to the recently released Infrastructure Strategy for WA. This was in the context of the Urban Systems Transport Paper produced by TAs and led by Emmerson Richardson. Members of the TAs committee also met with the CEO and team from the Amy Gillett Foundation to discuss opportunities for TAs to support events and initiatives to increase cycling safety in WA and nationally.

Our next event is 27 September, jointly with AITPM, 'Working Together for Electrification'. This will be an in-person event at EA in Perth and will have panel speakers from the energy and transport sectors discussing their respective challenges in meet the decarbonisation targets for the transport sector and for industry as a whole. It promises to be an interesting and well-attended discussion.

Transport 2024 Conference Committee Update

1. Working with Theme Champions(Lachie Lee-Archer, Nicole Badstuber, Andrew Holmes, John Devney) and Sponsorship lead (Shalendra)
2. Fortnightly meetings on-going
3. EA re-engaged with Transport 2024 (vie email from Alice Mumford 26/7) following actions for TAs:
 - a. Inputs to EA by end of August to allow branding and website finalisation – we have work to do on the conference branding image
 - b. Confirmation of themes and concept – note no change proposed
 - c. Confirmation of sponsorship prospectus – minor changes only
 - d. Committee key dates: I will provide the following as a placeholder and we will discuss at next Transport 2024 committee meeting
 - i. End of August - Keynote speakers confirmed
 - ii. Mid to late September – balance of speakers and key sponsors confirmed
 - iii. Mid-October – all speakers and sponsors confirmed

4. Update on progress on speakers / sponsors
5. Note we have a new day to day contact at EA Vishal Sharma taking over from Calista May-Shamrock.

Peter Wills

Chair, Transport 2024 Conference Committee