

# AR-19



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## ABOUT ROADS AUSTRALIA



**Roads Australia is the nation's peak stakeholder body for roads within an integrated transport system.**

We provide a national forum for industry, government and communities to collaborate on policy ideas and solutions that will deliver the best transport and mobility outcomes for all Australians.

RA's membership includes all of Australia's road agencies, major contractors and consultants, motoring clubs, service providers and other relevant industry groups.

Together, we strive to achieve a robust, integrated transport system for people and freight that values and invests in all modes of land transport, including **vehicles, public transport, rail, cycling and walking.**

We uphold the principles of a safe, inclusive, sustainable, economic and socially valuable roads industry for all Australians.





## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



### One of the big lessons in my time as President of Roads Australia has been the importance of collaboration and cooperation.

These have been the prime drivers that have positioned RA as an indispensable focus group, bringing together road and transport agencies and industry players to engage on practical policy issues that are - at their core - about delivering the best transport outcomes for all Australians.

Over the past several years, Roads Australia and its members have become increasingly aware of the necessity to view roads through the prism of integrated transport and planning. In 2019, we cemented that view into our Strategic Plan 2019-21, which identifies the priorities and challenges we want to pursue and - more importantly - the actions we will take to contribute to the dialogue and outcomes around them.

The Strategic Plan is, in effect, a recipe for productive collaboration and co-operation. I confidently believe it will ensure RA continues to be a relevant and effective forum.

One of our most important roles is to facilitate the gathering and sharing of ideas and knowledge, and one of the most effective tools for doing that in recent years has been our international program of study visits. In 2019 we returned to North America to update our industry and government leaders on the latest developments in mobility technology and regulatory approaches.

The findings from this visit were disseminated in the Final Report launched in October. Our recommendations will help shape Australia's response to the challenges of our immediate and long-term transport and planning needs.

These include the inevitable transition to electric and hydrogen fuel vehicles and the consequent decline in fuel-tax revenue; the introduction of new peer-to-peer and autonomous vehicle

technologies; and the roll-out of new transport models such as Mobility as a Service.

These challenges loom large, but they shouldn't be viewed as daunting. We stand on the cusp of a technology-driven revolution, and it's ours to grasp and shape as we wish.

Alongside these big-picture challenges is the suite of practical issues that impact on the efficient delivery of road infrastructure and services in Australia - the challenges around procurement and risk-sharing; the achievement of sustainability goals; road and roadworker safety; diversity and inclusion in our workplaces; the effective utilisation of road capacity; and asset management.

These are the issues we deal with every day, and we should never lose sight of their importance. Addressing them will require active collaborative work by all levels of government, industry, academia and transport users. Inactivity must not be an option if Australia is to remain among the top developed economies in the world.

Given this is my last report as President of Roads Australia, and drawing on the deep knowledge of our membership, the experience of overseas study tours and the work of our Policy Streams, I wanted to make some broad observations on what I think are the directions Australian governments, industry, academia and the public should take.

The need to reform our road funding tax base is obvious. Greater fuel efficiency has already eroded it and thrown a greater portion of the burden on those in lower socio-economic groups who tend to have older cars. The uptake of electric vehicles will make this inequity worse.

Experience in Japan and South Korea suggests the demand for hydrogen as a fuel will rise steeply. Australia should grab with both hands the opportunity to participate in this burgeoning industry.

In terms of future mobility, forward-looking North American transport entities are becoming increasingly customer-focused.

They are looking at the total journey rather than each mode or sector's individual profitability. It is a false economy to price people out of a journey (such as to a doctor's appointment or other beneficial meeting) that will otherwise save costs or produce a benefit in a much broader societal context.

Australia has a vibrant and talented academic research sector, but we must move from a model where universities compete with each other to a model where greater collaboration (coupled with private sector funding) is encouraged, using government funding as leverage.

Recent large-scale infrastructure developments, though welcome, exacerbate material and skill shortages. We must continue down the road of encouraging greater and more flexible participation by under-represented groups. We should also encourage competition and diversity in our approach to procurement, creating opportunities for smaller players.

Finally, I wish to thank all the Board members, staff and members with whom it's been my great privilege to work and serve.

I came into this role nine years ago, standing on the broad shoulders of my immediate predecessor Ray Fisher. I hope I have done justice to his legacy.

**David Stuart-Watt**

President  
November 2019



# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS



We welcomed 13 new members, consolidating our year-end membership at 155.

We ran a record 95 events around the country and hosted well over 9000 industry and government stakeholders.

We launched our Strategic Plan 2019-21, a rolling three-year plan that redefines our role in the context of Australia's rapidly evolving integrated transport and mobility landscape. Specifically, the Plan outlines what we want to achieve in terms of policy outcomes, and how we will get there.

We led two delegations to international events – our North American study visit and (jointly with Austroads) the World Road Congress in Abu Dhabi.

We made 11 submissions to state and/or Federal governments on a range of issues – everything from electric vehicle and hydrogen fuel strategies to procurement, skills and road safety.

We launched two major reports on global transport, mobility and city planning trends, based on the findings from our 2018 Study Visit to North Asia and our 2019 visit to North America.

We hosted 33 industry and agency leaders at our annual CEO workshop in Sydney to identify and endorse national road transport policy priorities.

We continued to promote diversity and inclusion across a range of dedicated events. Our commitment to fostering the next generation of industry leaders grew, with a record 12 Young Professionals networking events held across the country and the addition of another 31 to our Fellowship alumni.

## CEO'S MESSAGE



### It is my great pleasure to report and reflect on the activities of Roads Australia in my first full year as Chief Executive Officer.

Fourteen months ago I joined an organisation that had incredibly solid foundations and an unsurpassed reputation as a forum for high level networking.

The challenge set by the Board was to maintain this momentum while at the same time ramping up our contribution to the broader transport policy debate.

The Strategic Plan I presented to the Board in March was a framework to help us achieve this goal. Informed by the feedback received from our member perceptions audit, it reset our identity and goals and laid out an action plan to achieve them.

Our Policy Streams have since refocused and our contribution to debates has increased significantly via direct representations, ongoing collaborations with other industry groups, submissions

to government, reports, media statements and social media activity. Many of these initiatives are included in this report.

Of course, influencing policy outcomes is a long and circuitous process. There are no quick fixes to many of the issues on our agenda, and not all of the slog work we do plays out in the public eye.

However, I firmly believe that, with six or seven months of the Plan now under our belt, we are on the right track and will continue to make inroads in key policy debates.

The success or otherwise of such a strategic plan relies heavily on the 'buy in' of the Board and staff. In that regard, I have been very fortunate to enjoy the support of both.

I particularly pay tribute to our outgoing President, David Stuart-Watt, and the people with whom I work on a daily basis. We've undergone a number of staff changes this year, but the team around me today is stronger than ever.

I want to publicly acknowledge and thank them for their enthusiasm, hard work and commitment to the values and partnerships that make RA the wonderful member-based organisation it is.

**Michael Kilgariff**  
Chief Executive Officer  
November 2019



OUR BOARD  
2019



*President*  
**David Stuart-Watt**  
Director, Australia /  
Client Director Transport  
ANZ, WSP



*Vice President*  
**Marko Misko**  
Partner, HWL Ebsworth  
**Policy Stream Chair**  
*Sustainability*



*Vice President*  
**Scott Olsen**  
CEO, Fredon  
**Policy Stream Chair**  
*Capacity*



*Immediate Past President*  
**Ray Fisher**  
**Fellowship Stream**  
*Chair*



**Scott Charlton**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Transurban



**Aneetha de Silva**  
Managing Director –  
Government, Aurecon  
**Policy Stream Chair**  
*Journey Reliability*



**Fernando Fajardo**  
Managing Director,  
Acciona Infrastructure  
Asia Pacific



**Clare Gardiner-  
Barnes**  
Head of Strategy,  
Planning and Innovation,  
Infrastructure NSW  
**Policy Stream Chair**  
*Transport Reform*



*Treasurer*  
**Andrew Head**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
WestConnex



**Craig Laslett**  
CEO – Engineering and  
Services, Lendlease  
**Diversity and Inclusion**  
*Committee Chair*



**Mike Metcalfe**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Ventia



**Neil Scales OBE**  
Director-General,  
Queensland  
Department of Transport  
and Main Roads



**Richard Sellers**  
Director-General,  
Transport (WA)



**Rodd Staples**  
Secretary,  
Transport for NSW  
**Policy Stream Chair**  
*Safety*



**Corey Hannett**  
Director-General of  
the Major Transport  
Infrastructure Authority

POLICY  
STREAM  
DEPUTY  
CHAIRS



**Michele Huey**  
Group Executive – NSW  
Transurban  
**Transport Reform**



**Jay Stricker**  
Industry Director –  
Transportation AECOM  
**Sustainability**



**Steve Cooley**  
Director, Asset  
Management and  
Optimisation AECOM  
**Journey Reliability**



**Jeff Doyle**  
CEO Altus Traffic Group  
**Safety**

OUR STAFF  
2019



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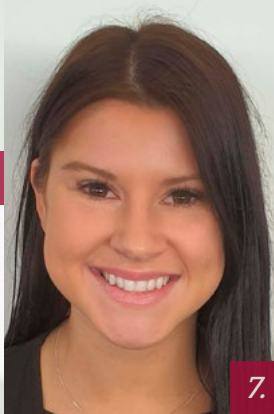
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- 1. **Michael Kilgariff** | CEO
- 2. **Quentin Crombie** | Director – Policy
- 3. **Sophie Chalmers** | Policy Officer
- 4. **Leslie Najera** | Policy Officer
- 5. **Hannah Sauvarin** | Director – Stakeholders
- 6. **Marlie Curtis** | National Membership & Event Manager

- 7. **Prue Northey** | Administration & Program Coordinator
- 8. **Mark Bowmer** | Director – Communications
- 9. **Rachael Rooney** | Director – Events
- 10. **Veronica Ong** | Finance Manager
- 11. **Thao Nguyen** | Office Manager
- 12. **Rowena Moran** | Office Assistant



## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

RA seeks to champion a diverse, inclusive, sustainable and values-led organisation and industry. The DEI Committee are responsible for championing a wider talent pool through:

1. Engaging women – through promoting pay equity, parental leave and flexibility in industry
2. Supporting indigenous employment and social enterprise programs – including linking skilled refugees and migrants with employment opportunities
3. Fostering young talent – by engaging and mentoring young professionals and future leaders, and promoting long term skills and capability development

## RA POLICY STREAMS

## RA POLICY ACTIONS 2019/2020

## RA BOARD

## POLICY COMMITTEE

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

**The Safety Stream recognises the increasing road toll trend in many jurisdictions and the impact on worker safety from transport infrastructure development.**

1. Pursue continuously improved land transport safety outcomes
2. Provide best practice guidance on eliminating injury and trauma
3. Focus on road worker safety risks and harmonised national guidelines
4. Leverage improved CAV vehicle safety features and improved vehicle safety standards
5. Actively promote diversity and inclusion

## SAFETY

## ACTIONS

1. Engage with members and industry partners on implementation of National Road Safety Action Plan 2018-2020
2. Promote National Road Safety Week and road safety expos as appropriate
3. Promote the Towards Zero campaign with a focus on rural roads
4. Promote support for, and build industry awareness on, mental health by developing an industry snapshot that underscores the importance of improving mental health

**The Capacity Stream recognises the need and opportunity to improve industry effectiveness and efficiency by building long-term capacity.**

1. Promote innovation and excellence in infrastructure delivery and management
2. Collaborate with industry and government to promote and build the skills and capabilities required for future infrastructure delivery
3. Improve the management of the relocation of utilities
4. Provide confidence in future work flows to attract and promote investment in capability
5. Actively promote diversity and inclusion

## CAPACITY

## ACTIONS

1. Promote the Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) Labour Agreement
2. Develop a report – Driving the future: The economic and social value of roads industry
3. Utilise the NSW 10-point plan concept and focus on developing a future-state procurement model
4. Engage with utilities in procurement reform discussions
5. Develop a Roads Australia Industry Confidence Outlook to highlight investment confidence, employment and top business challenges
6. Develop a Transport & Infrastructure Career Promotion Program

**The Transport Reform Stream influences public and private sector policy positioning on nationally significant transport innovation and reform options and solutions to improve customer outcomes and productivity.**

1. Develop policy options and positions that result in customer improvements through the introduction of new technologies, telecommunications and data driven solutions (CAVs, hydrogen fuel cell and zero- emissions vehicles, shared mobility)
2. Develop policy positions and address issues relating to transport pricing and national regulatory reforms
3. Develop strong partnerships, undertake international research and promote growth and innovation across Australia in new and emerging mobility markets (CAVs, EVs, MAAS)
4. Actively promote diversity and inclusion

## TRANSPORT REFORM

## ACTIONS

1. Lead a senior delegation on a Study Visit to US & Canada to learn about autonomous and zero emissions vehicles
2. Develop, consult and advocate policy proposal to lift uptake of EV's
3. Partner with Infrastructure Australia to deliver a consultation workshop on the Electric Vehicles Reform Series paper
4. Explore and positively influence the progress of States and Territories in preparing for automated and zero-emissions vehicles
5. Lead and facilitate policy debates and discussion on road reform
6. Promote international partnerships and collaboration on hydrogen fuel cell technology

**The Journey Reliability Stream recognises that customers and communities are central to all transport and infrastructure strategic decisions.**

1. Ensure customers and communities are central to transport and infrastructure strategic decisions
2. Support the integration of transport networks for seamless user experience across modes
3. Explore urbanisation and bring together national experience in congestion management
4. Encourage best practice in asset management against customer needs
5. Actively promote diversity and inclusion

## JOURNEY RELIABILITY

## ACTIONS

1. Promote the need for investment in the renewal and expansion of mass public transport systems through key events and policy papers
2. Develop a paper on Roads for Life: Customer-centric flagship paper on the future role of roads in Australians' lives
3. Develop a user-driven customisation of transport solutions paper which covers two categories of users: passengers and freight – on disruptive technologies' opportunities and impacts

**The Sustainability Stream has a focus on facilitating active dialogue between government and industry on the nation's sustainability goals for the transport sector and performance measurement towards the global sustainability goals.**

1. Promote sustainable procurement standards and effective waste management
2. Promote integration of land use and transport planning
3. Explore climate change resilience in urban planning and design
4. Investigate how we achieve world's most liveable cities
5. Encouraging responsible infrastructure development to operate with a social conscience
6. Actively promote diversity and inclusion

## SUSTAINABILITY

## ACTIONS

1. Green Roads: Build public awareness about roads as a sustainability solution
2. Continue directly supporting and promoting sustainable City Deals across the nation
3. Promote the adoption of sustainability standards for infrastructure
4. Promote waste management in construction through best practice outcomes paper
5. Contribute to roads and liveability in the Roads for Life paper led by Journey Reliability stream





ROADS AUSTRALIA MEMBERS



# KEY SPONSORS 2019



# CONTRIBUTING TO POLICY OUTCOMES

At May’s National Road Summit, RA formally launched its Strategic Plan 2019-21. The Plan is a three-year rolling document, to be reviewed annually by the Board, with the initial version developed after an extensive, independent stakeholder engagement process.



## RA Patrons 2019

**Advisian**  
Worley Group

**ALTUS**  
TRAFFIC  
Safely Managing Risk

**ARCADIS**

**ARUP**

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**Cardno**

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A TETRA TECH COMPANY

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Member of the Surlana Jurong Group

## RA Fellowship Program Sponsor

**JOHN  
HOLLAND**

## RA Insider Sponsor

**Cardno**

## RA Young Professionals Network Sponsor

**ARUP**

## A tick of approval

Newgate Communications was engaged in late 2018 to conduct a member perceptions survey, which in turn helped inform the development of our Strategic Plan. The key findings:

- our ability to facilitate strong industry - government networking is second to none, and
- we need to be more engaged and vocal in the policy space.

After crunching the survey numbers, Newgate gave RA an overall approval rating of 90 per cent - one of the highest scores ever seen in its surveying.

Building on our existing strengths, the Plan gives RA a fresh remit. While we will continue to champion roads, we do so in the context of an integrated transport system, recognising that roads are one piece of a much larger transport puzzle.

The Plan also identifies what roles and activities we should undertake in the transport advocacy landscape, carried out within the framework of our five Policy Streams – Safety, Capacity, Transport Reform, Journey Reliability and Sustainability.

## Capacity

The Capacity Stream is principally focused on improving procurement outcomes and addressing capacity and skill shortages.

One of the key initiatives undertaken in 2019 was a national series of workshops to show how to make the most of the Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa system, and to review the skills the industry required to be included on the skilled occupations list.

Valuing RA’s ability to bring industry to the table, RMS engaged with us in a series of Maintenance Contract Review roundtables to solicit feedback for the development of the next generation of maintenance contracts.

And working with another of our members - Professionals Australia - we brought together government and industry leaders in late January to consider capacity programs and initiatives that could ensure the successful delivery of Victoria’s major transport infrastructure program.

This was followed up in November with an industry and government roundtable, led by RA and featuring Corey Hannett, Director-General of the Major Transport Infrastructure Authority and Jason Loos, Deputy Secretary Commercial Division of the Department of Treasury and Finance Victoria, to discuss topics such as financial sustainability, procurement and risk allocation.



# CONTRIBUTING TO POLICY OUTCOMES



## 2019 RA Industry Confidence Outlook

One of the key actions for the Capacity Stream in 2019 was to develop an Industry Confidence Outlook, a snapshot of industry insights from CEOs and senior executives in Australia. The inaugural survey results were released in May, revealing that while short-term confidence was running high, industry leaders believed there was an urgent need to take collective action to attract and retain the skilled workers needed to deliver projects beyond 2020.

## Transport Reform

Our key activities in 2019 were based around knowledge-sharing. In February we launched the report of our 2018 Cities for the Future Study Visit to North Asia. Among other things, the report underlined the pressing need for Australian governments to increase funding in mass transit solutions to do the future heavy lifting in our increasingly densified cities.

In July/August we led our third study visit in as many years, this time returning to the USA and Canada to catch up on the evolving regulatory environment, and to look at how technology and mobility solutions are being packaged and rolled out. The findings from this visit were launched in October - see the break-out box opposite.

With RMS, we also convened a session in March with industry, government and key stakeholders to start a conversation about Sydney road readiness for electric and autonomous vehicles. This discussion included a focus on various forms of renewable energy, in particular pump hydro and hydrogen and their potential use in the energy network.

## Future Transport, Smart Cities

From 22 July to 2 August, Roads Australia led a Study Visit of senior Australian government and industry representatives to Washington, Pittsburgh, Detroit, San Francisco and Vancouver. Among the key recommendations and observations to come out of the study visit:

- To encourage greater collaboration, Federal Government research funding criteria should be modified to provide seeding money for transport research which is conditional on both attracting private funds and requiring involvement of more than one university.
- Australian governments must urgently consider a transition away from our current fuel-based road user charging system.
- Australian companies and transport providers must seize opportunities to collaborate and harness and/or develop new technologies and applications for whole of journey information, optimisation and payments.
- Access to data for all transport modes will be essential for managing demand and delivering customer focused services across an expanding range of mode choices.
- Our three tiers of government must improve collaboration around the integration of transport and land use planning.
- All governments must strike the right balance between appropriate regulation and gaining societal advantage from emerging driverless Mobility as a Service operations.
- Infrastructure planning should be directed at the interconnectedness of things, with greater community engagement and 'big picture' thinking rather than a project-by-project approach.
- Roads Australia is concerned that state jurisdictions are required to do the heavy lifting on infrastructure readiness for AVs. Without strong national leadership, support and investment commitment, the burden on states will be too great and impede the roll-out of new, safer mobility solutions.
- Lack of involvement by local government authorities in infrastructure readiness is a critical risk to smooth transition to an autonomous vehicle future.
- Regulators are struggling to understand the plateau in road safety improvement.
- There is strong evidence that city and state governments that develop strong connections with their communities will have the edge in the development of smart city solutions.
- The Federal Government should develop a business case for the establishment of a small scale vehicle manufacturing Co-operative Research Centre (CRC).

## Journey Reliability

RA's Journey Reliability Stream recognises and champions the central role played by 'the customer' in driving transport and infrastructure decision-making.

One of the key activities undertaken in the year was a session at our May Summit that looked at 'journey reliability' through the eyes of customers, comparing how the things they valued aligned with industry and government benchmarks in terms of equity and fairness, safety, accessibility, technology, comfort.

The Stream also commenced work on a Roads for Life paper, to be launched in 2020, to build awareness about the role of roads now and in the future, and make high level recommendations to support an optimal multi-modal transport system.





# CONTRIBUTING TO POLICY OUTCOMES



## Sustainability

In 2019, the Sustainability Stream continued to support the roll-out of the Federal Government's City Deal program, which, among other things, aims at managing growth, transport planning and liveability.

A key activity to support this was our Cities of the Future Forum in Townsville in October. Townsville was the recipient of Australia's first City Deal three years ago, and this event picked up on lessons learned to date and how the City Deal is being leveraged to create a more sustainable transport future for Far North Queensland.

In September, the Stream held a roundtable with ARRB to consider how to increase the uptake of recycled materials in pavements, with feedback filtering into a three-year ARRB research program to produce a step-change advance in the knowledge of characterising these materials and their subsequent performance.

## Safety

In May, our newly commissioned Safety Stream held a Spotlight on Safety one-day forum in Melbourne which brought together over 230 industry, government, community and emergency service responders to share good practice and focus attention on a broad range of safety priorities, from safer road infrastructure and vehicle design standards to road trauma and mental health in the construction workplace.

Also announced at the Spotlight on Safety (and in conjunction with National Road Safety Week) was RA's Platinum Partnership with the Safer Australian Roads and Highways (SARAH) Group.

In July, the Stream convened a Road Worker Safety Workshop in Sydney to discuss how to best manage the risks posed to road workers, while providing a safe environment for all road users. This, in turn, led to the formation of a Road Worker Safety Working Group, which convened for the first time in October to establish goals and priorities for a forward work program.

## Listening to our industry leaders: the 2019 CEO Workshop

Each year, Roads Australia hosts an executive workshop of private and public sector leaders to discuss and steer our activities on key issues. This year's workshop, with 33 attendees, was held in conjunction with RA's National Transport Summit in Sydney at the end of May.

Executives workshopped five key policy topics to provide their collective guidance on what success looks like and how we get there.

On **safety**, our CEOs cited the importance of refreshing road safety campaigns and looking at new ways to engage the public, such as virtual reality experiences and more in-school training.

On the infrastructure side, it was noted that interventions - notably wire barriers - were making a difference. This was seen as an area in which RA could promote and encourage additional funding. It was also noted that greater use of technology would help rural road safety.

Our CEO's believed governments should mandate which new technology should be included in electric vehicles (EV's) through the Australian Design Rules. Safety design rules should be approached holistically, including behaviours, infrastructure and vehicle and non-vehicle technology.

On **infrastructure procurement**, our industry leaders reiterated that a transparent pipeline of work would generate the certainty to make informed decisions around capacity. Part and parcel is the early planning and sharing of project information.

Risk allocation requires urgent review and, ideally, reform should move towards a greater sharing of project risk between industry and government.

On **road-user charging**, industry leaders agreed that the need for road funding reform was pressing and urged RA to continue to work towards this outcome.

On **journey reliability**, the industry leaders called for much greater investment in mass transit and noted that it would reduce congestion on roads, thus making the road system more efficient.

On **sustainability**, it was agreed that the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) rating scheme plays a positive role in the industry's sustainability story. RA has a unique opportunity to tell a jobs and sustainability story.



# THE NETWORKING AND ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE



## Growing and sustaining strong industry – government relationships off the back of our networking program is central to what we do as a membership-based organisation.

In 2019, RA held some 95 events and workshops nationally – the majority again being free for members – for well over 9,000 participants. There included for the first time industry lunches in the national capital.

Our Annual Summit in May was addressed by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack, and NSW Transport and Roads Minister Andrew Constance. Our international keynote was Professor Carlo Ratti from MIT Boston, who painted an illuminating picture of the role of technology and data in developing efficient mobility solutions in urban environments.

Our transport future was a key theme explored at the Summit,

alongside procurement, road safety, capacity and diversity issues. A highlight of Day Two was our Young Professionals workshop, which attracted a whole new and younger audience to our flagship conference.

The themes explored at the Summit were largely mirrored at our one-day Forums in Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane, albeit in a local context.

The RA networking experience extended this year to Abu Dhabi for the World Road Congress in October. Together with Austroads, we led the Australian delegation to this significant international event that brings together ministers and agency heads from around the world. We were again joined by the Deputy PM.

RA's ability to bring 'the right people to the table' was once again proven when we were asked by Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews to host a single table dinner of industry leaders in May, with the discussion ranging over a broad sweep of issues –

from recycling and repurposing of materials in roads to mental health in the construction sector and financial sustainability in construction.

The RA 'single-table' experience has been one of our greatest (and most copied) success stories, providing an intimate forum for government and industry leaders to meet and discuss issues in a frank and open environment. RA hosted 23 such events in 2019.

On top of that, we hosted 25 major industry lunches around the country, collectively attracting thousands of attendees, including Premiers, Ministers and top transport administrators.

Our flagship networking event, the John Shaw Dinner, was again a huge success, attracting 720 guests.

## Fellowship

In 2019 RA inducted our fifth intake of Fellows.

The Fellowship Program has been another of our major success stories, creating an alumni of hundreds of up and coming leaders from government and industry, each supported by individual mentors drawn from the top echelons of our membership.

In addition to personal mentoring, the program participants are also exposed to group mentoring opportunities. Fellowship events this year included workshops and presentations with Westconnex CEO Andrew Head; John Holland Chief Strategy Officer Jayne Whitney; M1 Engineers CEO Amy-Ruth MacDonald; TfNSW Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Mildwater; Abicon Risk Management Principal David Jurd; and Roberts Pizzarotti CEO Alison Mirams.

For the first time in 2019, the fruits of the Fellowship Program were served up to the next level of young professionals via a Fellows-led group mentoring program.

## Young Professionals

In 2019 RA held a record 12 Young Professionals events nationally, including our session at the National Transport Summit, social networking events, group mentoring events, a site visit to Eastlink in Melbourne and a regional event in Townsville. Over 2000 of our industry's youngest and brightest came along to these events.

The third annual YP Passion, Promise and Pursuit Award was presented to Arup Engineer – Highways, Verity Williams, from Perth. More than 250 attendees came to the Gala Dinner and award presentation held in Sydney in November.

## Building new bridges

RA continues to build bridges and networks across all levels of our membership.

Last year we dipped our toes in the water, hosting a social event in Sydney for our members' communications, corporate affairs and stakeholder engagement professionals.

Buoyed by the success of that event, in 2019 we took the model to Melbourne and Brisbane, with almost 100 professionals turning out in the former and 40 in the latter.

At each event we had speakers sharing 'war stories' and best practice examples of successful community and stakeholder engagement on major transport projects.





# THE NETWORKING AND ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE



## Recognising our champions

This year's John Shaw Dinner, sponsored by WSP, was another huge night for our industry. Over 700 guests descended on the Sydney Town Hall for the announcement of our 2019 Medalist - Professor David Hensher, Founding Director of the Institute of Transport and Logistic Studies at Sydney University and a transport researcher of international repute.

Our Technical Excellence Award winner, named at last November's Sydney Annual Lunch, was Dr Harry Asche, Aurecon's Design Director of Tunnels, in recognition of his career and technical leadership in road tunnels.

# SUBMISSIONS



## Diversity and Inclusion

The Australian engineering and construction sectors have relatively poor records in terms of diversity and inclusion in the workplace. RA has been working with its members to turn this around. In 2019 we expanded on the successful program of initiatives undertaken in 2018. Among our initiatives and activities, we:

- provided opportunities for young talent to present at key RA events;
- focused the Fellowship Project on D&I – with all recommendations going to the D&I committee to consider;
- increased our percentage of female Fellows and Mentors in the Fellowship Program;
- continued to offer complimentary parental leave seats at all major events, allowing parents to stay connected to industry and support the return to work;
- increased gender balance across all speaking programs and roundtable events;
- continued to work with CareerSeekers to support training programs and partner members with talent;
- developed a proposal (in partnership with Ashurst) to provide scholarships for indigenous and under-represented groups within our Fellowship Program; and
- held two dedicated D&I events of our own and partnered with Major Road Projects Victoria on another two, bringing industry and government together to share knowledge and discuss collaborative ways to increase diverse and inclusive procurement throughout the supply chain, as well as the importance of leadership in diversity.

## Communication

Throughout 2019 RA published regular media releases on both RA policies and events and reaction to major government and industry announcements concerning road transport and related issues.

Distribution of our RA Insider newsletter had grown to a database of over 16,000 recipients by year end.

## Throughout the year RA put 11 submissions to government inquiries.

### January - Commonwealth Budget Submission 2019-2020

The submission urged the Federal Government to increase funding for public transport infrastructure, commence the reform of road charging and investment, provide additional funding for road and road worker safety, and fund and lead Australia's transition to future technologies, including a hydrogen fuel industry.

### February - NSW Construction Leadership Group (CLG) Procurement Methods Discussion Paper.

RA called for greater consultation with industry before procurement processes began. This would lead to better allocation of risk and more scope for smaller operators, increasing competition and reducing costs.

### March - Policy Proposal for Transport & Industry Jobs Hub (TIJH) to Victorian Government.

RA continued its push to address skills shortages by advocating construction as an attractive career for younger people and women, and backing more education and training.

### March - Submission to COAG Hydrogen Working Group

RA encouraged the Federal Government to take a lead role in securing opportunities for Australia to establish itself as a major hydrogen supplier.

### June - Productivity Commission National Transport Regulatory Reform Submission

Among other things, RA called for the establishment of a Freight Data Hub to better understand Australia's freight task, and greater support to local government to fulfill its freight network safety obligations.





# SUBMISSIONS

# MEDIA STATEMENTS



**July – SA EV Strategy Discussion and Survey Paper**

RA again urged government to address the looming policy and strategy vacuum relating to the introduction of electric vehicles.

**July - SA's 20-Year Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper**

RA welcomed the establishment of Infrastructure South Australia and encouraged it to harmonise its business-case development and assessment processes with those established by Infrastructure Australia.

**July - Victoria's Mental Health Royal Commission Submission**

The submission highlighted the relatively high rate of depression and suicide in the construction sector, citing work by an RA-led group that sparked eight of our members to invest in what we believe is the first industry-led research into mental health in the infrastructure construction industry.

**July - RA submission on the COAG Energy Council development of a National Hydrogen Strategy**

RA again urged that Australia grasp its opportunities to play a leading role in this industry.

**August - NTC Consultation – Impact Statement Developing technology-neutral road rules for driver distraction**

RA's submission concentrated on the need for additional actions during the procurement and construction stages of projects to improve safety for construction workers.

**November – Senate Inquiry into Management of the Inland Rail project by the Australian Rail Track Corporation and the Commonwealth Government**

RA commended the Australian Rail Track Corporation for separating the project into small, medium and large scale delivery components, and urged a continuing focus on early engagement with industry on projects of this scale.

Throughout 2019 RA published regular media releases and opinion pieces on both RA policies and events and reaction to major government and industry announcements concerning road transport and related issues.

**February - It's time we got serious about road funding reform**

The Commonwealth needs to accelerate the reform process around road pricing and investment.

**February - NSW regional road network gets a shot in the arm**

The NSW Government's decision to reclaim 15,000 kilometres of local roads will ensure a more safe, equitable, consistent and efficient approach to maintaining the State's regional road network.

**February - Asian experience shows we need to put PT investment in the fast lane**

Australia's most populous cities should be actively discouraging private car use and investing heavily in mass transit systems, according to a new report from RA.

**February - OP ED - Have we backed the wrong horse in the Transport Stakes?**

**March - An open letter to the Victorian Parliament**

RA joins with other stakeholders in urging the Victorian Parliament to support the passage of legislation for the West Gate Tunnel project.

**March - RA welcomes forward-thinking approach to Hobart's transport infrastructure needs**

The Tasmanian Government's decision to bring forward funding to investigate alternative traffic routes through Hobart is great news for commuters and a win for responsible transport planning.

**March - National leadership on road safety applauded**

The establishment of a national Office of Road Safety is a hugely welcome and positive step towards addressing Australia's road toll.

**April - EV target welcomed, now for road funding reform**

The Federal Opposition's national electric vehicle target of 50 per cent of all new car sales by 2030 is ambitious but achievable - but it must happen in tandem with 'root and branch' reform of road funding.

**April - Budget delivers a boost for roads and transport, but the task is still ahead of us**

The 10-year, \$100 billion infrastructure spend promised in last night's Commonwealth Budget is good news for our major cities and regions.

**May - Eight transport priorities for the Coalition Government**

Roads Australia congratulates the Coalition on its return to government at the weekend.

**May - Victorian Budget good news for road and rail users**

The Victorian Budget handed down by Treasurer Tim Pallas continues the Government's strong commitment to transport infrastructure planning and delivery.



MEDIA  
STATEMENTS



**May - Infrastructure investment confidence high, but challenges looming over the horizon**

A critical shortage of skills remains the number one concern of construction industry leaders charged with delivering Australia's record transport infrastructure spend over the next decade, according to a new industry survey.

**August - Audit sends clear message – despite record spend, we need to invest more on infrastructure**

The latest Australian Infrastructure Audit underlines the need for governments to put the pedal to the metal on transport infrastructure planning and spending.

**August - Qld's latest infrastructure pipeline report gives industry a birds-eye view of the horizon**

Roads Australia welcomes the publication of Queensland's latest Infrastructure Pipeline Report.

**September - Federal Government must flex its muscles to drive improved road safety outcomes**

The Reviving Road Safety Strategy released today makes a compelling case for stronger Federal leadership to help turn around Australia's road toll.

**October - Private vehicle ownership on the way out as 'Mobility as a Service' reshapes our transport future**

Australians may soon be paying for their door-to-door work or school journeys as a single charge – but the trade-off may also be handing over the keys to the family car, once and for all.

**Marlie Curtis**, National Membership & Event Manager, RA with **Teresa Tran** (WSP) 2018 YP Award Winner, welcoming **Verity Williams** (Arup) 2019 YP Award Winner with **Emma Davies**, Associate | NSW & ACT Highways Team Leader - Arup and **Elizabeth Mildwater**, Deputy Secretary, Greater Sydney Division, Transport for NSW at the annual Young Professionals Gala Dinner and Awards night in November.







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