

6.2 NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS & TRANSPORT CONGRESS REPORT

Submitting Councillor: Cr James

MOTION

That Council receives the report from Cr James on his attendance at the National Local Roads & Transport Congress, held in November 2018

INTRODUCTION

At its 25 September 2018 meeting, Council approved my attendance at the National Local Roads & Transport Congress (NLRTC) of the Australian Local Government Association, which was held in Alice Springs from 20 to 22 November 2018.

The assembly is always well attended, with over 200 delegates from Councils right across Australia.

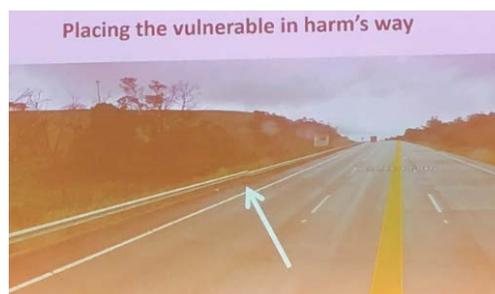
The congress provides attendees with an important opportunity to hear from other councils and industry leaders on emerging technologies and priorities in the Transport sector.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

There were range of interesting speakers over the course of the NGA:

- *David O'Loughlin, President of the ALGA and Mayor of Prospect in South Australia, addressed the NLRTC.*
 - 662,000km of roads are under the management of Local Government, which makes up 75% of the total road length in Australia, yet LG receives only 3.6% of total taxation revenue, while 79.8% goes to the Federal Government and 16.8% to State Governments
 - Average Local Government expenditure in 1996 was 8.8M, in 2006 it rose to 20.5M and in 2017 it had hit 30.5M with little increase in revenues
 - He again called on all Councils around Australia to submit three shovel ready projects to ALGA
 - It was highlighted that the death toll on roads hasn't changed for 3 years and that in the NT the road toll has actually doubled over the past 12 months
- *Allan Garcia, CEO Infrastructure Tasmania*
 - Tasmania are planning for renewables and laying new cables across the strait
 - It's easy to plan for the next ten years, but planning for thirty is almost impossible

- The most important question is when will vehicles as we know them go? In 5 years he plans not to have a car. Given that, how can we plan infrastructure for 30 years?
 - In 30 years we know kids will have to turn up to school. They will almost certainly have more technology available to them, but schools are also about the social aspect so we know they'll still congregate somewhere
 - 99% of freight to Tasmania arrives by sea with 85% through Burnie and Devonport
 - Currently only 6% of Hobart use Public Transport and there are some serious discussions happening about new venues. If they can get usage to 12% they will solve the immediate congestion issues. Current plans:
 - Create a Central Hobart transit centre
 - Priority bus lanes
 - Derwent Ferry Service
 - Northern Suburbs urban renewal and transport options
- **David Bobberman – Safety Program Manager, Austroads**
 - 80% reduction in personal motor vehicle travel by 2030
 - 50% of all workplace accidents are on roads or during travel
 - No investigations other than by Police
 - **Peter Frazer – Safer Australian Roads and Highways (SARAH)**
 - Spoke passionately from the heart about the death of his daughter travelling to Wagga Wagga to start a degree / new life at university
 - Her car broke down but the way the highway had been built prevented her from getting it out of the 110km p/h lane
 - A tow-truck was hooking up her car when a truck ran them down
 - Road shoulder was not built to the accepted standard width to allow for vehicles to pull over; shortcuts were taken to maximise road space
 - 50% of all workplace accidents are on roads or during travel
 - No investigations other than by Police
 - Last year 1227 people were killed on our roads and more than 35,000 were seriously injured. Peter made the point that a Virgin aeroplane carries 104 people. If one aeroplane was crashing every month; what would we be demanding?
 - Organises National Road Safety week in May





- **Cr Joseph Haweil – Hume City Council & Jerry Tan – Downer Group**
 - Hume partnered with Downer Group to resurface Rayfield Avenue from recycled material
 - The road is made from 200,000 plastic bags, 63,000 glass bottles and 4,500 user printer cartridges
 - New prototype of recycled road called Reconophalth
 - Biggest issue in Australia is the cost of recycling
 - Cheaper to bring in recycled bottles from Mexico than it is to recycle our own
 - Performance increase over lifetime of 15%
 - Only a 2% cost impost over current ash felt
 - Expected to be cost neutral once take-up occurs

- **John Kananghinis – RMK+Associates**
 - Many of the automated features are already becoming common place such as lane departure warnings and automatic braking
 - Introduction of fully autonomous vehicles is hampered by immature technology
 - Regulatory framework is not ready, although State agencies have started gearing up for it
 - Requires massive investment
 - Consumer take-up will take a long time
 - Levels of autonomy
 - Level 1: All new cars have Level 1 which includes computer activated driving aids such as ESC and EBC
 - Level 2: Many new cars have Level 2 which includes lane departure warnings, Active Cruise Control, Traffic Jam Assist
 - Level 3: Most premium new cars; computer can control the vehicle in limited, predictable conditions
 - Level 4: Integrates all CPU and information systems to provide full vehicle control in complex situations
 - Level 5: Virtual driver
 - In Australia, only Level 1 & 2 cars are legally permitted and whilst most premium cars are capable of the higher levels, these are disabled as part of the ADR compliance
 - Challenges:
 - Mixed use & highly complex environments.
 - Relatively long life of current vehicles.
 - Road user separation and interaction.
 - Supporting infrastructure investment.
 - System failures.
 - Humans.

- Problems:
 - Reliance on central data systems.
 - Vehicle to vehicle communication.
 - Integration of public and private systems.
 - External access security (hacking)
- What happens with liability? In the event of a problem, people will head for the regulatory body that allowed the vehicle to operate, not the manufacturer
- *General points of discussion*
 - Recycling
 - 91% of people support a national action plan on recycling
 - 88% support new requirements for packaging to be recycled, and for national education to reduce contamination in kerbside recycling
 - 88% of recyclables still being processed domestically
 - 89% want recycled content in Government procurement
 - Road trauma
 - Road toll is currently around 1200 per year
 - 480 people annually are killed on local roads managed by Councils
 - Nearly 5000 people will be killed on local roads over the next decade if we do nothing
 - 66% of fatalities occur in regional Australia
 - Majority of non-fatal serious accidents occur at 60km while most fatalities occur at 100km
 - Most fatalities occur due to distraction, drink driving, speeding, fatigue or people being unrestrained

CONCLUSION

This year's congress was far more relevant to urban councils than last year's congress, which was heavily weighted towards rural councils.

Monash should consider involving itself in the promotion of National Road Safety Week in May and I will follow this up with the Director Infrastructure.

We should also look to investigate the experiences at Hume Council, in regards to building roads from recycled materials.

Attendance at the NLRTC offers a range of benefits, most notably access to Ministers and industry experts, both national and international, that would otherwise not be accessible.

Discussions with other councillors and council officers from across the country, was also invaluable as a method of information sharing and will help to further the work I am doing on behalf of Council on the various transport committees on which I sit, particularly as we move towards automation.

It is recommended that Monash continues its involvement in future NRC's.

ATTACHMENT

