

# VIEW FROM CANBERRA



April 2017

## FUTURE TRANSPORT AND BUSES

Following on from the focused and strong discussions on future transport and the bus industry at the BIC Conference in Perth last year, a delegation of BIC representatives from each State Association, operators and suppliers met with the National Transport Commission on March 6 for a 1 day workshop to continue the momentum and discussion about where bus will fit in the future in relation to autonomous vehicles, contract arrangements, on demand services, the role of the bus industry in future public transport and potential opportunities and challenges for the bus industry.

It is important that Industry take a lead in this discussion and ensure that our voice is heard and that we play our part in the shape of future mass transit and just as importantly in social transit and ensuring that Government continues to meet Minimum Service Levels (MSL) and Community Service Obligations (CSO) when it comes to transport for people who are less well off.

Much of the discussion about future public transport has been focusing solely on technology such as autonomous vehicles and communication applications. BIC has raised the point that technology alone is not the answer and that a holistic approach to the outcomes we are seeking from the transport network is required, not a knee jerk approach that deems new technology is going to be the sole solution to the future transport and mobility needs of people and some type of panacea to the problems of the current transport network.

Watch this space as BIC and the Bus Australia Network advance this discussion with the NTC and all jurisdictions. The Outcomes from the March 6 workshop are available at [www.ozebus.com.au/PDF\\_NTC.pdf](http://www.ozebus.com.au/PDF_NTC.pdf)

As I mentioned in my last BIC Column, the BIC National Conference will be held at the Grand Chancellor Hotel Hobart from November 12-15, 2017. The theme will be "Moving People - Mobility as a Service" and will focus on how Industry and Government will deliver future transit and mobility services.

Mark it in your diary.

