

VIEW FROM CANBERRA



April 2018

The New Zealanders are coming – Highlights for the 2018 Cairns Conference

The Australasia Bus Conference October 7-10, 2018 in Cairns is a first go at a joint event hosted by BIC and BCA NZ. The fact we are even holding a joint event highlights the common issues that the bus industry here in Oz, 'across the ditch', and the world face when it comes to future public transport, future services, future smart technology, contract types, business models, vehicle propulsion, driver or vehicle attendant to name a few.

Highlights of the program for 2018 will be the involvement of the NZ Transport Minister Phil Twyford, Qld Transport Minister Mark Bailey, Shadow Minister for Transport Cities and Tourism Anthony Albanese, and in principle agreement from the Deputy PM and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Michael McCormack. It is clear our politicians see the challenges of future transport and want the bus and coach industry involved at ground level. It is important we show them we are keen to take a leadership role in the future of our cities and regions when it comes to transport and our own destiny.

I mentioned the "Future Cities – Planning for our Growing Population" report from Infrastructure Australia (IA) in my last column. Phil Davies the CEO of IA has agreed to attend the conference and give the IA perspective of future infrastructure investment; one in my view that can only see bus rapid transit and bus priority as the cornerstone of future PT infrastructure investment by government of all persuasions if we are going to be serious about future autonomous vehicles. Sure they are a way off but we need to plan the future infrastructure NOW.

Moving People - Century 21 is the theme of the conference and I am glad once again to say that Susan Harris CEO of Intelligent Transport Systems, Australia (ITS) has agreed to attend and present on "Mobility as a Service and the future of public transport", reflecting on the findings of a research survey currently being undertaken by the Institute of Choice at the University of South Australia.

Professor Graham Currie, Chair of PT at Monash University, one of the star performers of last year's conference, who presented a very different view of the future Mobility as a Service world will once again be involved and bring his entertaining take on where we are heading and challenge the so called "technology driven consensus".

The delivery of future services, technology and autonomous vehicles is just one part of our *Century 21* future. Another area where Industry needs to be ahead of the game is in industrial relations, workplace and employment impacts. This will be a core part of the program, taking up the whole of Tuesday morning. Industrial Relations - what will it look like in 2021 and beyond; the industrial and social implications of autonomous vehicles and planning for future skill and labour requirements.

This joint BIC and BCANZ Australasia Bus Conference is all about leading the discussion with Industry, governments and the public. The conference is a part of ensuring the bus and coach industry is taking a leadership role as an industry as a whole and a leadership role as individual businesses - operator and supplier, to work with governments and thought leaders to understand our role in future mobility. That is why your involvement is important so visit the dedicated *Century 21* event website at movingpeople.com.au

Bus Australia Network

