



TAs Vision

Our vision is to improve national well-being, productivity and sustainability by influencing key transport decisions.

TAs involvement in the Big Picture: our key issues

TAs aims to improve national well-being by influencing major transport decisions....the first step in this process is to identify the key issues.

Since July 2015, the new Executive Committee of TAs has been identifying high level transport issues that :

- are central to Australia’s well-being, productivity and sustainability.
- will continue to be important in coming decades
- recognise the full spectrum of the “transport task”, including moving people and freight into and out of Australia, around Australia, and within our cities and towns.

Our initial six key issues are set out below, in no special order.....These issues will be updated from time to time, and will drive our activities, at both national and state levels.

Six key issues.....

Transport in Australia’s cities

We recognize that many of Australia’s major cities already suffer from road traffic congestion, and overcrowded public transport. Moreover, many of our cities are likely to double in population over the next 40 to 50 years.

TAs actively promotes:

- a dramatic increase in overall investment in urban transport infrastructure
- appropriate higher urban densities, especially around transport nodes
- policies and infrastructure to support active modes of travel (walking and cycling) around our cities and towns
- equitable sharing of the cost burden of new infrastructure between governments, transport users, and other beneficiaries.

Game-changing technologies

New technologies are emerging which will likely result in dramatic changes to transport systems across the world, notably :

- robotics and the likelihood of autonomous vehicles (and possibly aircraft)
- new energy/power systems, for many transport modes

New technologies will likely lead to changes in Australia's transport systems as dramatic as those at the dawn of the steam era in the 1800s, and those at the dawn of aviation and the car/truck in the early 1900s.....With effective leadership, new technologies could deliver huge benefits for our national well-being, productivity and sustainability.

TAs :

- supports our members who are involved in developing new technologies
- seeks to identify benefits, and the inevitable costs, of changing technologies
- constructively contributes to Australia's policy and regulatory frameworks to achieve "net societal benefits".

Maintaining and improving international competitiveness

We are a nation that is highly dependent on international trade. Much of our import and export infrastructure is privately owned and operated. It compares favorably with infrastructure in many other countries.

TAs advocates for:

- continued investment to modernize and expand our capacity to efficiently and safely move people and freight into and out of Australia
- leading edge technologies for our ports and airports, ships and aircraft to improve safety, environmental outcomes, and to reduce costs
- protection of vital transport nodes, and the approach routes to these nodes.

Identifying and allocating costs and benefits

Australia's transport systems generate important societal benefits, but they also frequently require investments of taxpayer funds, for capital works, and for operational costs. These investments compete for scarce government funds against health, education, defence, and many other governmental priorities. Transport systems can also have other costs, including personal health and safety, and environmental consequences.

TAs supports:

- rigorous identification of costs and benefits of transport systems
- equitable allocation of costs of transport infrastructure between governments, users and other beneficiaries.

Sustainable transport systems

This issue has two components:

Protecting the natural environment- Over the past 50 years or so, the environmental performance of many components of Australia's transport systems have improved dramatically, including improved fuel economy, reductions in many harmful emissions, and improved construction practices. However, further environmental improvements are required.

Effectiveness and efficiency- Huge investments in transport infrastructure are necessary to cope with population growth, growth in freight volumes, replacing aged infrastructure and changes in transport technology.

In recent decades project delivery has been patchy in Australia, when measured by cost, completions dates and final functionality. Moreover, some of our existing transport services have relatively high operating costs.

TAs actively promotes:

- improved environmental outcomes through the construction and operational phases of transport systems
- best practice for efficiently delivering transport infrastructure, and transport services....including the appropriate roles for government and the private sector.

Safety and Security

Over the past 40 years there have been enormous improvements in transport safety, especially road safety, although there is still a long way to go to achieve zero fatalities.

In contrast, security concerns have increased over this same 40 year period, and include:

- terrorist threats affecting international flights and shipping (with flow-on consequences for Australia's air services and shipping)
- greater reliance on imported fuels to power our land transport and air services, and only very modest "in-country" reserves.

TAs :

- actively promotes further improvements in transport safety across all transport modes
- advocates measures which ensure "acceptable security" for all travellers and freight
- advocates for adequate "in-country" fuel reserves to insulate Australia against future energy shocks and incidents.

TAs works with governments, industry and academia to address these key issues, and will comment publicly about issues to support our aim of a productive and sustainable future for Australia.

Over coming years, the work program of TAs is expected to focus on these key issues, including workshops and conferences.