APPLIED

Australian Academy of
Technology & Engineering

National Transport Regulatory Reform
Productivity Commission
LB2, Collins Street East
Melbourne Vic 8003

25 June 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into National Transport Regulatory Reform. The Academy has recently completed research that may assist with the Commission's work in recommending further reforms to Government towards a more integrated national market for transport services.

The Academy is an elected fellowship of over 850 Fellows from around Australia who are leaders in applied science, technology and engineering drawn from industry, research, academia and government. We are a Learned Academy operating as an independent, non-political and expert think tank that helps Australians understand and use technology to solve complex problems.

The Academy operates across a number of national technology challenges and policy areas that represent the expertise of the Fellowship, including infrastructure. A key priority area for the Academy is to help foster industry technology readiness – the preparedness of Australian companies to adapt, adopt and develop emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and the internet of things. We recently released the first report of a three-year project on this topic, looking at emerging technologies in the transport sector, including autonomous vehicles and low emissions vehicles.
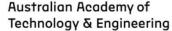
The Academy's report found that Australia is performing well on a number of readiness indicators and is well placed to capitalise on the coming transport technology revolution. However, with technology developing at a rapid pace and competitor countries investing and acting strategically, Australia needs to ensure we make smart, strategic decisions to keep pace with the technological frontier. The report recommendations include:

- Implement mechanisms to drive a widespread shift towards low emission transport options
- Provide a framework to regulate new transport technologies
- Develop and adapt transport technologies to an Australian setting
- Prepare the workforce for the transition to future transport models

In particular, recommendation 2 – to provide a framework to regulate new transport technologies – is of relevance to this inquiry. The Academy recommends that an adaptive regulatory framework be established to provide guidance to the transport sector to help shape future transport systems. We recommend Australian governments introduce flexible and adaptable legislative and regulatory

frameworks that can keep pace with the global technology frontier to ensure that Australia becomes, and remains, a key competitive player in the global market of advanced transport technologies. Further, COAG should set nationally consistent standards and regulations to facilitate the uptake of productivity enhancing technology, including:

- a consistent regulatory approach for transport technologies and infrastructure, such as the development of standards for charging infrastructure and connections for low emission vehicles, the development of standards for data sharing and data privacy, and the selection of standards for V2X communications based on global standards

- Data aggregation and availability, where this would offer an avenue to insight for the market and consumers. Which data should be collected, the situations in which it needs to be shared in real-time and post real-time, and what can be shared for forensic purposes needs to be specified for key platforms (for example, from connected and autonomous vehicles and intelligent transport systems).

I enclose a copy of the report, and would be pleased to arrange a briefing on this ongoing work at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Matt Wenham
Executive Director, Policy

Encl. Shifting Gears – Preparing for a Transport Revolution