

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Note: Winner photos available for [download here](#).

Celebrating Excellence: ITS Australia Announces 2026 Award Winners

Australia's Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) industry gathered in Melbourne last night to celebrate the winners of the 16th Annual ITS Australia Awards.

The ITS Australia Awards acknowledge outstanding achievements in advanced transport technology, recognising organisations that leverage new and emerging technologies to enhance the intelligence, safety and efficiency of Australia's transport networks.

"This year's ITS Australia Award winners represent the very best of innovation and leadership in intelligent transport," said Silje Troseth, President of ITS Australia.

"Their achievements highlight how collaboration across industry, government and research is driving real progress toward a transport system that better serves all Australians - now and into the future."

This year's **Smart Transport Infrastructure Award**, sponsored by Daktronics, was presented to Transport for NSW, for their [Drones for Roads](#) program designed to enhance safety, reduce congestion, optimise emergency response and set a new benchmark for efficiency, coordination, and resilience.

The **Intelligent Mobility Award** went to [NEC Australia My Way+](#), Transport Canberra's new ticketing system, transforming mobility by unifying fare media, digital identities, and real-time journey planning through cloud-native, modular platforms.

The **Connected & Automated Vehicle Award** was won by Transurban who, in partnership with Toyota Motor Corporation Australia, delivered a [trial of connected vehicle technology](#) on Melbourne's West Gate Freeway, using real-time data to guide safer motorway merging, reduce crashes and improve traffic flow.

The **Excellence in Research & Development Award**, sponsored by iMOVE, was won by La Trobe University, the Centre for Technology Infusion, for their project, [C-ITS for Motorcycle Safety](#): Start today, prepare for tomorrow, using Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) to make riding safer with warning systems including helmet audio alerts and LED mirrors.

The **Excellence in Transport Data Award**, sponsored by Amazon Web Services, went to ConnectSydney-Service Stream Transport [Contractor Call ON/OFF App](#), digitising contractor access to Sydney's road network, replacing manual call-ins with real-time tracking, AI geomapping, and geofencing.

The **Young Professional Award**, sponsored by Transurban, was awarded to Kalan Ralph, an emerging leader from Main Roads Western Australia and ITS Australia NextGens Co-Chair for his work in elevating national visibility of regional transport challenges and championing youth engagement in the ITS industry.

The **Max Lay Lifetime Achievement Award** winner John Gaffney received his award, which was announced in late 2025 ([press release here](#))

The winner of the **Woman of the Year Award**, sponsored by Q-Free, was Distinguished Professor Fang Chen, also announced in late 2025 ([press release here](#)), who was also honoured at the Awards ceremony.

ITS Australia CEO Susan Harris commended this year's winners.

"This year's award-winning projects highlight the power of collaboration across Australia's intelligent transport ecosystem, particularly the role of university partnerships in delivering robust, evidence-based solutions," said Ms Harris.

"As the peak industry body, ITS Australia is focused on strengthening these collaborations to scale technology-driven innovation that enhances transport outcomes and the end-to-end travel experience."

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Winner photos available for [download here](#).

Winner quotes for optional use:

Excellence in Research and Development Award: C-ITS for Motorcycle Safety: Start today, prepare for tomorrow

Project lead Erik van Vulpenn, Deputy Director of the Centre for Technology Infusion

"We are incredibly grateful to TMR, TAC and iMOVE for enabling us to be part of this groundbreaking effort, to the Connect Motorcycle Consortium and to all riders who contributed their time and expertise. Together, we need to keep pushing to shape the future of safer and smarter transport."

Connected and Automated Vehicle Award: Smoother, Safer Motorway Merging with Collective-Perception-Based Speed Advice

Transurban Group Executive of Operations Dave Clements

"We're proud to be recognised for an innovative project that has driver safety at its core."

"We're always looking at ways to make journeys safer and more reliable for the communities who use our roads. This partnership allows us to explore how connected vehicle technologies can complement our existing traffic management systems to reduce crash risk and improve traffic flow."

Excellence in Transport Data Award: Contractor Call ON/OFF App

Spokesperson from ConnectSydney

“Developed in partnership with Mooven, the Call On/Off app provides the ConnectSydney Operations Centre with a single live view of all active works across the network. By digitising contractor check-ins and linking activities to approved Road Occupancy Licences, the platform ensures clear visibility of who is on the network, what they are doing, and under what authority, improving safety, compliance, and real-time operational decision-making.”

Max Lay Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, John Gaffney

“To the next generation of ITS practitioners: the work ahead will be complex, the tools more responsive, the data richer, and the stakes higher.”

Woman of the Year recipient, Distinguished Professor Fang Chen

“I’m truly honoured to receive the 2026 ITS Australia Woman of the Year Award. This recognition celebrates the collective effort of our research, industry and government partners working together to make transport smarter, safer, and more sustainable through data-driven innovation.”

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