

7 January 2025

Mr Jim Betts
Secretary
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development Communications and the Arts
111 Alinga Street
Canberra City ACT 2601

Safe Sustainable Transport Through Technology

Dear Jim

In 2023, ITS Australia strongly endorsed the Department's draft Connected and Automated Vehicle Strategy and Action Plan, including the proposed approach for Australian governments to adopt a nationally consistent strategy for transport technology. Considering the rapid pace of technological change, there is a key opportunity to embed a sound foundation and governance framework now, which will help build industry and community trust and engagement. This will enable the sector to collectively deliver safety and efficiency benefits both now and for future generations.

Several national and international projects are currently underway, expanding our understanding of the potential of connected, cooperative, and automated technologies and identifying pathways to their deployment. The *Safe Sustainable Transport Through Technology* paper outlines key issues and opportunities identified by ITS Australia members, along with direct calls to action for government and industry.

ITS Australia highlights the importance of industry and government collaboration to fully leverage these technologies and emphasises the need for government leadership in preparing for vehicle automation, harnessing the benefits of vehicle connectivity, and nationally harmonising vital data for road safety and productivity. There is an immediate need for action. With numerous initiatives already underway or in development, the time is ripe for a collective approach to deliver these technologies. Failure to act promptly with a coordinated national effort led by governments risks delaying the deployment of life-saving technologies and resulting in a fragmented, patchwork approach. Government leadership at this stage is critical to support broad deployment across all of Australia—across all locations and socio-economic circumstances.

Australia's National Managed Motorways is an international success story, achieved through concerted federal support and state cooperation that delivered harmonised technologies across the network. The C-ITS Harmonisation and Pre-Deployment project currently underway is designed to achieve a similar outcome.

Current initiatives that would benefit from enhanced support and governance include:

- A national effort led by governments to build robust and trusted data sets for high-impact use cases, such as speed limit data and road works, as an initial foundation.
- National deployment of long-range communications for road safety data.
- Agreement on first-priority operational domains for Automated Vehicle deployment across jurisdictions, aligned with specific needs, particularly public transport and freight.
- Reduction of emissions through more effective utilisation of existing assets.



Against the backdrop of road safety targets trending in the wrong direction, we, as a nation, must leverage technology to achieve our long-term goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries. Driver assistance technologies are already saving lives on Australian roads, and with increased deployment, we can fast-track our road safety ambitions, enhance network efficiency, and support sustainability goals. However, deploying these technologies requires government consideration and oversight. The industry is keen to work with government to deliver these life-saving technologies effectively, and ITS Australia is well-placed to facilitate these discussions and activities.

For ITS Australia members, the key message is that the Federal Government must take an active role in the connected, cooperative, and automated vehicle space. This includes allocating funding—or redirecting existing funding—toward practical deployment beyond research and development.

This paper highlights the key opportunities for Australia to leverage its sophisticated transport technology ecosystem to improve transport-related outcomes for all Australians. To maximize the impact of cooperative and connected transport, ITS Australia calls for:

- **Federal funding:** Unlocking and accelerating the deployment of safer and more sustainable vehicles and transport through connected, cooperative, and automated technologies.
- **National harmonisation:** Leadership from the Australian Government to adopt nationally harmonised data-sharing protocols and foster outcome-focused collaboration between state/territory and federal governments.
- **Stronger partnerships:** Enhanced collaboration between governments and industry to make the latest technology solutions available to Australians.

To further strengthen the Commonwealth's relationship with the transport technology sector, the ITS Australia Board invites Nikki Vajrabukka from the Department's Office of Future Transport Technology to join the ITS Australia Board in 2025. Our directors represent a cross-section of senior representatives from government, industry, and academia, all focused on transport technology. This directorship position will facilitate Commonwealth engagement in our deliberations as we oversee the delivery of our Strategic Plan, with a focus on the elements outlined in this letter and the attached paper.

Our CEO, [Susan Harris](#), would be pleased to provide further details regarding this role and to facilitate ongoing engagement related to the agenda outlined here.

We welcome the opportunity to work more closely with the Commonwealth at this exciting time for transport technology in Australia.

Your sincerely,



Silje Troseth
ITS Australia President