



14 December 2018

Mr John Alexander OAM MP
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Alexander,

**RE: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE,
TRANSPORT AND CITIES - INQUIRY INTO AUTOMATED MASS TRANSIT**

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is pleased to provide this submission to the Committee on the Inquiry into automated mass transit.

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is an independent think tank dedicated to shaping public debate about infrastructure and driving policy reform for the benefit of the national interest.

Our submission focuses on the critical role the Commonwealth has in the development of autonomous vehicles (AVs), and new energy sources in land transport, particularly in relation to the electrification of light vehicles.

While there is a degree of correlation between the forecast rise of zero emissions vehicles such as electric vehicles (EVs) and AVs, due to advances in technology, EVs are already on our roads and starting to drive immediate challenges for the Commonwealth. The key points of our submission are:

- There is a closing window of opportunity to attach long term reform to the rise of a new technology. EVs and other ZEVs sold in Australia should fall under a new distance-based road user charging mechanism, ensuring road users continue to make a fair contribution towards the provision and maintenance of transport infrastructure.
- While it is important to be prepared for the advent of new technologies, governments should not seek to pick technology winners in AVs. Rather, investment, regulation and policy should follow community choices.

These points are explored in the attached two documents, which we provide as part of our submission:

- Our 2018 submission to the [Select Committee on Electric Vehicles – inquiry into the use and manufacture of electric vehicles in Australia](#), and
- Our 2017 report [Automated Vehicles: Do we know which road to take?](#)

We would be delighted to discuss these matters further with the Committee. In the meantime, if you require further detail please contact Michael Twycross, Senior Policy Adviser, on (02) 9152 6012 or michael.twycross@infrastructure.org.au.





Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN DWYER
Chief Executive Officer

