

Chair's Report 2023

I am pleased to present the first Chair's report to members of the Centre for Connected and Automated Transport (CCAT).

CCAT establishment

CCAT was established on 1 July 2022 by the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB, now the National Transport Research Organisation), as a collaboration of government, industry, academic and community bodies with a mission of facilitating Australia and New Zealand's transition to connected and automated transport.

CCAT replaced the Australian and New Zealand Driverless Vehicle Initiative, expanding in scope to cover both connectivity as well as automation, to look beyond roads to other transport modes, and to focus more on preparedness rather than promotion of the technology. This transition was essential given the evolution of the technology from the conceptual stage to a tangible reality.

Appointment of key personnel

I was honoured to be appointed by the Board of ARRB as CCAT's inaugural Chair. The next key appointment was for CCAT's Executive Director. Rahila David was appointed in August 2022 after an open recruitment process. We were very fortunate to secure Rahila, whose experience leading regulatory reform for automated vehicles in Australia has formed a solid foundation for CCAT's success.

Mission and objectives

One of our first priorities was to refine CCAT's mission and objectives, which we did with guidance from the CCAT Charter and stakeholder engagement. CCAT's mission is to facilitate Australia and New Zealand's transition to connected and automated transport. Our two key objectives are to:

- build a strategic vision for the infrastructure to support connected and automated transport in Australia and New Zealand.
- be the public champion for the transition to connected and automated transport in Australia and New Zealand.

These objectives make clear that long-term planning in infrastructure is our top policy priority, to ensure the benefits of connected and automated transport can be maximised. Equally, we have a responsibility to bring the public along for the journey. Without public trust in the technology, the full benefits of connected and automated transport cannot be realised.

Membership building

As a new organisation, it was essential to build CCAT's membership base in order to become a representative and influential voice in the transport sector. In the months after CCAT's commencement, we focused efforts on attracting a broad government membership,

followed by key industry players and associations. We have been extremely pleased with the response, with 20 members joining to date including the major transport agencies, infrastructure providers and transport associations. Our members have particularly understood the need for action to spur long-term strategic infrastructure planning for connected and automated transport across modes.

Appointment of interim CCAT Board

An interim CCAT Board was appointed in December 2022 to govern CCAT until the first Annual General Meeting and Board election. The interim Board is made up of an expert group of Australian transport leaders:

- Ian Webb, Chair
- Damon Bowen, Client Executive, Telstra
- Charles Griplas, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, ConnectEast
- Richard Host, Acting Deputy Secretary, Customer Strategy and Technology, Transport for New South Wales
- Dr Hermione Parsons, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Logistics Council
- Jeremy Nassau, Head of Future Transport and Partnerships, Transurban
- Dennis Walsh, Chief Engineer, Queensland Transport and Main Roads
- Michael Caltabiano, ARRB/NTRO Chief Executive Officer (ex-officio)

Events

CCAT has held a number of well-attended events. CCAT's first major event was an industry launch, held at Parliament House in Canberra in October 2022. A series of 'Boardroom lunches' for transport sector leaders was held in late 2022 and early 2023, with events in Brisbane, Sydney and Perth. And a public launch was held at the National Maritime Museum in Sydney in May 2023. These events provided an opportunity to bring Australia's transport leaders together to discuss sector issues and to communicate and test CCAT's mission and objectives.

Our Executive Director, Rahila David, has also embraced the role of public champion for connected and automated transport, with numerous speaking engagements at conferences, universities and other knowledge sharing settings.

International Outreach

CCAT's International Outreach took a delegation of Australian government and industry leaders to the United Kingdom, Sweden and Germany to explore how these countries are preparing for connected and automated transport. Invaluable learnings were gained about government leadership, industry collaboration, trials and research, infrastructure, regulation, and the linkages to decarbonisation. These learnings have helped to shape CCAT's policy positions about the action necessary in these areas. The Outreach also created valuable linkages with global stakeholders for CCAT and our delegates.

Public policy focus

Our policy report, 'Transport in transition: Learnings from the CCAT International Outreach 2023' was an opportunity to publicise CCAT's positions on a number of sector issues for the

first time. Since the report's release, we have been sharing our recommendations widely and have received excellent feedback from the transport community.

At CCAT's public launch, I announced to over 70 stakeholders that we intended to coordinate a national summit on connected and automated transport infrastructure. This summit will deliver on CCAT's commitment to build a strategic vision for the infrastructure required to support connected and automated transport. We aim for the summit to kickstart a more strategic long-term plan for our infrastructure, that seeks to optimize the broader benefits that connected and automated transport technologies can provide, rather than just enable the technology. The summit will be a collaborative effort, to be delivered by key stakeholders in the transport sector. A first planning workshop was held in August 2023 and attended by over 60 stakeholders, who discussed a proposed delivery model and potential themes for the summit.

Membership benefits

First and foremost, through CCAT, our members have a new, coordinated voice to contribute to the public policy debate around connected and automated transport, through initiatives like the summit, policy reports, submissions and stakeholder briefings.

Networking and information sharing are important benefits to CCAT membership. Through CCAT's events, we have brought stakeholders together to form new connections and hold thought-provoking discussions about the transport sector. All of our events have been at maximum capacity, showing the keen interest the stakeholder community have in CCAT's mission.

Our communications channels such as our LinkedIn pages and regular newsletters have been extremely well received, with the newsletter now reaching over 1,200 stakeholders and our LinkedIn page having over 1,800 followers. Our member article series, 'The Commute' also provided an opportunity this year for ConnectEast and Transurban to share important findings from their research and trial programs. And our webinar on the International Outreach shared our learnings and recommendations with a wider audience.

As well, we have facilitated connections for our members on an informal basis, tapping into our diverse national and international stakeholder network.

2024 preview

In the next year, CCAT's key public policy priority will be the national summit on connected and automated transport infrastructure. We will work with our major transport bodies to plan and deliver recommendations from the Summit which will serve as an enduring reference point for our sector in the future.

Over the course of this year, we have understood the significance of CCAT's broadened scope beyond automated vehicles. Connected technologies and infrastructure can make a difference for road safety now and are also an enabler for safer automated vehicles in the future. We will continue to enlarge our focus on the 'connected' part of the journey next year.

Expanding our membership will continue to be a priority, particularly in sectors beyond roads, to reflect the unique whole of transport system approach that CCAT takes.



CENTRE FOR
CONNECTED
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TRANSPORT

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CCAT Annual General Meeting

6 December 2023

CCAT will grow, with a new Senior Leader – Policy and Engagement to drive our policy work program and outreach.

And finally, I am looking forward to working with our newly elected CCAT Board, who bring with them great enthusiasm and a wealth of experience in leading transport initiatives.

Acknowledgements

I thank my fellow Board members for the knowledge they bring to CCAT, and for putting their support behind a new body with a commitment to seeing CCAT succeed. I particularly thank outgoing Board members Damon Bowen, Richard Host and Dr Hermione Parsons for their strong guidance in our first year.

Finally, I extend my thanks to CCAT's members. Without your early support, CCAT would not have achieved such a successful first year. Your continued support provides me with great confidence in CCAT's prospects for the future.

Ian Webb
Chair, CCAT