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## Message from the CEO

Welcome to the first issue of the VTA Enews for 2019. I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable break and are primed for what promises to be another big year in transport. Reform and change is happening right across our great industry and the VTA looks forward to advocating on behalf of members and the industry for heavy vehicle driver licensing, road user charges and heavy vehicle national law reforms that benefit operators, keep costs down and improves productivity. Many of these reforms will be discussed at the State Conference in late March, for which the VTA is now accepting registrations. I wish you every success in 2019 and, as always, please let myself or anyone at the VTA know if we can be of assistance. – **Peter Anderson**

## Registration opens for VTA State Conference 2019

The VTA is now accepting registrations for State Conference 2019, being held at Silverwater Resort, Phillip Island from Sunday, 24 – Tuesday, 26 March. The conference theme this year is ***Keeping Up with Transport Reform***, in a nod to the many changes afoot in 2019 by legislators and regulators that will impact operators and every part of the supply chain. The program will feature high-profile speakers from government, regulators, authorities and

other industry stakeholders, who will discuss reforms to driver licensing, heavy vehicle national law, road user charges and other critical areas. To benefit from Early Bird savings register at the VTA [website](#) before **Friday, March 8**. For further information download the [conference flyer and registration form](#).

### **VTA releases latest version of Cost Index**

The VTA has issued its latest Cost Index, which presents cost averages and a general review of specific costs, based on an accumulation of data from several sources. With the transport industry especially sensitive to cost fluctuations, the Index is a useful tool for forecasting cost fluctuations around labour, fuel, registration, repairs and maintenance, and other business costs. The Index is available exclusively to VTA members via the member porthole at the website, accessible [here](#).

### **VTA issues advisory on Australia Day public holiday**

With Australia Day only a week away, the VTA has published an industry circular regarding pay rates, with the Victorian Government recently finalising Rates for the Australia Day public holiday. The Australia Day public holiday will be on Monday, 28 January, as a substitute day for Australia Day which falls on Saturday 26, January. Previously, both the Saturday and Monday were declared as public holidays. This means that there will now only be **one** public holiday and that is Monday, 28 January. A copy of the amended holiday schedule is available [here](#) on the VTA Member's only section of the website.

### **Transurban takes delivery of West Gate Tunnel boring machine**

West Gate Tunnel builder and operator Transurban commemorated an important milestone on the project with the delivery this week of one of two [Tunnel Boring Machines](#) that will deliver the twin tunnels. The 4000-tonne machine – named Bella – arrived from China and will be assembled on site, with an estimated length of 15 metres and length of 90 metres. Tunnel boring is expected to commence in mid-2019. The West Gate Tunnel will be a game-changer for the transport industry, providing direct heavy vehicle access to the Port of Melbourne from the West Gate Freeway.

### **Welcome decline in Victorian and national road toll**

There was a marked decline in the national road toll last year, with Federal Government statistics recording the fewest fatalities on Australian roads since 2014. There were 78 fewer fatalities in 2018, which is a 6.4 per cent drop from the previous 12-month period. Victoria was one of the stand out jurisdictions for reductions in the road toll, recording a 17.4 per cent decline in fatalities in last year, compared with 2017, bested only by South Australia which recorded a 19 per cent decline. The reduction is a credit to work by the Commonwealth and state governments, along with police, roads and other authorities. While even one fatality is one too many, we acknowledge and welcome this latest reduction.

## TCA merges with Austroads

VTA supporter Transport Certification Australia (TCA) has been acquired by Austroads, a peak organisation of Australasian road transport and traffic agencies. The decision for TCA to be owned by Austroads was made by the Transport and Infrastructure Council (TIC) following a review of national transport bodies in 2018. TCA will continue as a separate corporate entity reporting through a newly established Board and will continue to lead by interacting with three distinct stakeholder groups: producers of applications (including government agencies and regulators which set policies and programs using telematics) Consumers and users of applications; and providers of applications (which deliver telematics products and services in response to producers and consumers).

## Register today for February VTA Golf Day

Registration is open for VTA Golf Day on February 15, sponsored by Viva Energy Australia. Returning to the National Golf Club, this is a fantastic opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues and compete for some great prizes. Always a highlight of the VTA calendar, secure your spot early to avoid disappointment. Further information is in the event [flyer](#) and registration is available [online](#).

## Training

- [Prescribed Industrial Waste](#) – 5,9,12,19 and 26 February 2019
  - Chain of Responsibility – [Safety Management Systems](#) – 30 January 2019
  - Chain of Responsibility – [Awareness](#) - 6 February 2019
  - Chain of Responsibility – [Safe loads](#) – 13 February 2019
  - Master Class – [Business Planning you can Implement](#) – 14 February 2019
- A full schedule of the VTA training for January to June 2019 is available [here](#).

## Upcoming events

- [VTA Golf Day](#); (Sponsored by Viva Energy Australia) February 15
- [State Conference 2019](#); March 24-26
- Women's Lunch; April 12