



The Australian Industry Group
51 Walker Street
North Sydney NSW 2060
Australia
ABN 76 369 958 788

6 February 2017

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources
Email: iisr.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Ministers

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE SOCIAL ISSUES OF DRIVERLESS VEHICLES

The Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources on its inquiry into social issues relating to land-based driverless vehicles in Australia.

Ai Group's membership comes from a broad range of industries and includes businesses of all sizes. This inquiry will likely impact on our members who provide technology solutions, transport and logistics, and end users including not only road users, but also those involved in development and maintenance of substantial infrastructure.

We are encouraged by positive initiatives such as the NSW Government's recent vision for a future transport system where technology plays a pivotal role, including the consideration of driverless vehicles. We also support the various pilot trials of driverless vehicles in Australia, through which we can help drive innovation and develop a role in a globally competitive driverless vehicle industry.

However, the challenge at the moment is the current fragmentation and lack of interoperability between the various initiatives. While multiple initiatives between States, Territories and local councils may see governments compete to drive growth, fragmented and conflicting approaches can also inhibit development of intelligent transport, including driverless vehicles. Advanced transportation is an important element of the 'fourth industrial revolution', and governments need to collaborate on an integrated approach.

On this note, we welcome the NSW Government's call for national standards for the road infrastructure, systems and regulatory frameworks underpinning vehicle automation. To facilitate this the Australian Government, as part of its Smart Cities Plan, should consider establishing a standing stakeholder reference group, which includes governments, industry and the community.

It is important that initiatives such as these bring the community along the journey and do not leave people behind. This includes exploring in further detail how these technologies will help the community and business through supporting jobs growth, the future workforce and industry competitiveness.

It is also important to put in place initiatives that instil business and community confidence in the system. For instance, cyber security, safety and privacy are prominent issues associated with driverless vehicles. Government leadership is important to address these matters. However, Government should also be wary of the potential for excessive regulation to inadvertently inhibit innovation, productivity, competitiveness and growth.

Should the House of Representatives Standing Committee be interested in discussing our submission further, please contact Charles Hoang [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Peter Burn
Head of Influence & Policy