

VIEW FROM CANBERRA



October 2017

Intelligent Transport Systems and Mobility as a Service

I was at the Bus Expo on the Gold Coast and it was great to see all the vehicles in the room. At the same time there were many stands that were displaying connective technologies. Connective technologies that are driving the Mobility as a Service approach to future PT. Matters that will be at the core of the BIC Conference in Hobart.

From the Expo, I travelled to Brisbane where Intelligent Transport Systems Australia (ITSA) were holding there National Conference. I spoke on “Bus Public Transport and Mobility as a Service”.

ITSA is very focused on the technology side of things and all of the different aspects of future mobility, not just the vehicle, not just the App or the technology that connects the customer to the mobility services but things like future infrastructure technology to ensure road safety and recharge fuel cells. All of the BIG DATA that has to be collected and disseminated to make things happen safely and conveniently and of course not get hacked. Susan Harris the CEO of ITSA will be speaking at the BIC Conference, so come along and hear all about the challenges and complexities of connecting all of this technology together to make the transport network work in the future.

My presentation focused on the realities of the transport task and the skill set of transport providers in understanding their costs of operations, the task they are undertaking, the passengers needs and the expertise that bus operators bring to the table. Technology might enable but a provider has to provide and meet certain standards and not go broke for example.

So while all of this is going on, Transport for London announced that Ubers license to operate in London will not be renewed after 30 September 2017 due to public safety and security implications. Uber was found to not be a fit and proper company to hold a London Private Operator license. Uber will appeal this decision, but my point is, Uber is not an operator and there is more to the transport task than connecting a service with a passenger. Something to think about for Hobart.

Bus Australia Network

