

## ARA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY FORUM – 30 OCTOBER 2018

### DANNY BROAD, CEO, ARA – OPENING ADDRESS

Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Australasian Railway Association, welcome to all delegates and speakers for today's Telecommunications and Technology Forum.

In doing so I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, and pay respects to their elders, past and present.

And importantly, I acknowledge the significant role of our indigenous peoples in building Australia's railroads over past years and I am confident they will continue into the future.

For those of you I haven't met before, my name is Danny Broad and I am the CEO of the ARA.

Who was at the TTF two years ago?

How things have changed since then and will continue to change.

It's a great time to be in the rail industry and recognise how technology both challenges and drives better outcomes and benefits?

At the 2016 ARA TTF, delegates agreed that the Australasian rail industry lacked a coordinated and strategic direction for the adoption and deployment of telecommunications and technology-based systems.

The ARA Board subsequently agreed for the ARA to implement a Smart Rail Route Map for the industry.

This Route Map is an industry-owned and industry-driven initiative, spearheaded by the ARA and the Rail Manufacturing Co-Operative Research Centre (RMCRC) and supported by Deakin University's Institute for Intelligent Systems Research and Innovation.

The \$550,000 project (\$200,000 in cash funding from Rail Manufacturing CRC and ARA, and \$350,000 in in-kind contributions) will identify a long-term rail industry program to improve the industry's ability to adopt and keep pace with telecommunication and information-based technologies.

The Deakin University project team, led by Professor Douglas Creighton is providing expertise in Systems Mapping when workshopping, developing and modelling this project's outputs.

Today, Deakin University is also our proud host of the TTF.

The Smart Rail Route Map is currently under development and due for completion in December 2018.

An interim report was released last week and exclusively provided to all delegates - I believe all of you have received a copy of this report?

The Route Map will focus on standardisation, integration and harmonisation over the next 30 years through the establishment of a common view of priorities, themes, timelines and actions.

Importantly, it will provide a basis for defining the rail industry direction, development initiatives and research programs and in effect, provide a framework through which next generation rail technologies can be integrated and supported in the Australasian rail environment.

The Smart Rail Route Map will help our industry to realise the vision of a national approach to rail technology, bringing economies of scale while supporting interoperability and many other efficiencies.

The Smart Rail Route Map is technology-neutral, and communicated in a non-technical manner.

The ARA Board is strongly supportive of the Smart Rail project.

At the ARA September Board meeting, the Board agreed to establish an Executive Committee to guide the project's long-term implementation following its completion in late 2018.

This executive committee will oversee the creation of a number of working groups which will take the Route Map's actions and initiatives forward.

If you are interested to be a part of the working groups, please let us know.

The underlying strength of the project lies in the level of industry engagement.

Since 2017, more than 200 rail industry representatives have provided input to the Route Map through structured workshops and one-on-one discussions.

Our thanks to Doug and his team at Deakin University for their involvement, and also to Dale Coleman and his team at TTG for their regular sponsor of the Telecommunications and Technology Forum.

TTG are represented here today by Bruno Lambla, Product Manager. Thank you, Bruno.

My apologies for having to leave you during the day.

A very close friend of mine recently died from a brain tumour and my priorities are with his family at the service in Sydney early this afternoon.

I encourage you to use today's opportunity to listen learn and provide input to this important project.

Thank you and enjoy your day.