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Mr Geoff Allan
Acting Chief Executive Officer
National Transport Commission
Level 3/600 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

23 November 2018

Dear Mr Allan,

Re: Response to NTC Discussion paper: regulating government access to C-IT'S and automated vehicle data

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the NTC discussion paper, As the national centre for transport and mobility R&D, much of our centre (partner) activity is concerned with facilitating the successful development and deployment of C-ITS and automated vehicle technologies. In order to realise the significant safety and operational benefits available to Australia, it is essential the data access framework supports rather than impedes the introduction of these technologies on our roads.

The following points summarise iMOVE's response to the NTC discussion paper on government access to C-IT'S and CAV data:

- iMOVE views connected and automated vehicles (CAVs) and cooperative intelligent transport systems (C-ITS) as important developments for our road networks and mobility systems. We believe they offer that offer significant safety and congestion reduction benefits and their adoption should be encouraged.
- CAVs and C-ITS depend for their operation on extensive and complex flows of data. The protection of individual privacy is also important so the challenge is to find a regulatory and operational stance that facilitates the flow and sharing of data but also respects the privacy of individuals.



- To the extent that the need for data sharing to make the vehicles and the systems safe conflicts with a need to limit data sharing to protect privacy we believe the emphasis should fall on protection of the community over the protection of individual privacy.
- Adoption of CAV and C-ITS technologies may be impeded if the community is concerned about risks to their safety and privacy. Of the two we believe risks to safety will be the stronger impediment and, in the interests of encouraging adoption, we would not support a stance on privacy that compromised safety.
- Manufacture and adoption of CAVs is a worldwide phenomenon, in which Australia is a leading, but small participant. iMOVE believes it is important for Australia to maintain a high degree of alignment with international approaches in order to retain access to the emerging technologies and the benefits they offer. We believe the European approach will be the preferred model for Australia.
- While the NTC discussion paper relates specifically to government access to C-ITS and CAV data, iMOVE expects that there will be many, many sources of data, many of which will be generated and 'held' by industry. The need therefore is to resolve more generally how data can be shared between any entities within the mobility and transport ecosystem, not just decide what uses can be made of it by governments.
- CAV and C-ITS technology, along with its component sensors, data flows and algorithms are still evolving rapidly. We expect that some currently perceived risks are likely to diminish over time as technology evolves, and no doubt new risks will emerge from unanticipated interactions. We should therefore be very cautious about making hard and fast regulatory interventions at this early stage. We recommend further monitoring and understanding of the landscape before committing to a specific regulatory option.
- The rapidity of the current technology evolution demands ongoing research into both the technology and its uses. It is important that the resulting regulatory stance not be so restrictive that it impedes research (including research by government entities) into the safe deployment of the new technology. The research however will still have to handle data ethically and with respect to individuals' privacy.
- The evolution of the technology also impacts the nature of the data that will be generated. While some data streams such as names, addresses and facial images are clearly 'personal', the vast majority of the data generated from CAVs and CITS platforms will not be intrinsically 'personal'. Rather most data streams will be fundamentally impersonal but risks generating (or enabling) 'personal' insights as a result of being combined or cross referenced with other (impersonal) data sets. Because it will be difficult to accurately categorise data as being 'personal' or 'impersonal' we strongly urge restraint against regulating access to particular data, and encourage instead obligations on data users to avoid combining data in way that would generate personal insights. We recommend controlling the uses to which data is put rather than access to the data per se.



- iMOVE encourages all stakeholder to further consider the best ways to balance the generation of value and safety from intensification of data usage against the risks of intruding into the privacy of individuals. We offer iMOVE's neutral, multi-stakeholder platform for further discussion, consideration and development of possible access mechanisms by both government and nongovernment sectors.

If you require further Information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian N. Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "I" and "C".

Ian Christensen
Managing Director
iMOVE Australia