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Mr Paul Retter AM
Chief Executive & Commissioner
National Transport Commission (NTC)
Level 3, 600 Bourke Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Retter

Safety Assurance for Automated Driving Systems Consultation Regulation Impact Statement

The Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on mechanisms to manage the safety of automated driving systems as outlined within the National Transport Commission's *Safety Assurance for Automated Driving Systems Consultation Regulation Impact Statement* (RIS).

As Australasia's leading independent vehicle safety advocate, ANCAP plays a significant role in influencing the design and specification of new vehicle models offered in Australia and New Zealand through its non-regulatory approach to safety testing. This is achieved through direct consultation with the automotive industry and ongoing consumer engagement activities.

For 25 years, ANCAP has been independently assessing vehicle crashworthiness and publishing information on the level of protection provided to vehicle occupants and vulnerable road users through a program which complements regulated minimum standards prescribed through the Australian Design Rules (ADRs).

In acknowledging the fast-developing and innovative area of automated vehicles, from January this year the ANCAP regime has broadened to include objective performance evaluations of automated vehicle safety technologies such as autonomous emergency braking (AEB), active lane-keep assist (LKA) and intelligent speed assistance systems (SAS). This is the first time that these 'Level 2' automated technologies are independently tested and assessed for vehicles in the Australasian market, and form the building blocks of a far broader assessment regime, mapped out to 2025, with testing protocols expanding continuously over the period to evaluate new automated safety features and technologies and their safety benefits.

An important element to our program expansion has been the common application of test and assessment protocols for vehicles sold across both Australasia and Europe. This approach has been instituted intentionally to encourage common specification and more swift penetration of vehicles with higher safety credentials across both markets. A priority consideration in the development and application of a safety assurance system for automated vehicles must therefore be international consistency. This consideration is vital to encourage the industry to prioritise market availability of the same technology across markets and, at the same time, build consumer understanding, confidence and uptake for the technology. Without international consistency there is a risk that Australasian consumers may be disadvantaged through a reduced offering of technology, potentially due to increased regulatory barriers and associated costs.



YEARS OF
INFLUENCE

Safety and trust in the operation of automated systems are critical elements which will have significant impact on consumer confidence and uptake. Of concern to ANCAP are the limitations and subsequent gaps in consumer understanding of the operation and benefit of these new technologies. Without an understanding of function and limitation, or the human responsibilities associated with their operation, there is a risk that road safety benefits will not be realised, and that technology may be rejected. This issue is reflected in the NTC's proposed Statement of Compliance. ANCAP is also working to assist with this through its consumer messaging and stakeholder engagement activities.

ANCAP's non-regulatory approach exists in parallel, and is complementary to regulation where independent testing exists to validate manufacturer claims of functionality and safety performance to established protocols covering both the Australasian and European markets. ANCAP supports the development of a regulatory framework for automated vehicles as regulation plays a critical community assurance role. In parallel, ANCAP will continue its work to encourage industry development, performance and market supply of emerging technologies to increasingly stringent safety thresholds.

ANCAP welcomes the NTC's consideration of the above-mentioned aspects, and is available to discuss these in further detail as required.

Yours sincerely



James Goodwin
Chief Executive

6 July 2018