



AuHSR Newsletter - February 2024

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HSR Authority revs its engines!

The HSR Authority has gone to market to fill key senior executive roles and begin procurement of third party services for its first business case.

Get informed and have your say!

See Peter Fagan's post on our blog here [Lessons learned on HS2](#)

HSRA revs it engines

Senior Executive roles

The HSR Authority (HSRA) has engaged Hudson Executive to recruit candidates for six senior executive roles reporting to new CEO Tim Parker. General Manager positions have been announced in the follow areas;

- Customer, Maintenance and Place Making
- Communications and Stakeholder Management
- Commercial
- Safety, Environment and Sustainability
- Technical and Design

Recruitment is also underway for a General Counsel and Board Secretariat.

Enquiries should be directed to Pat Hart at Hudson Executive on +61439074391.

Tender for management advisory services

The HSR Authority has issued notice on the AusTender website that it will seek to procure management advisory services during the third quarter of 2023/24 in the following areas;

- HSR Network Rail Operations Planning Services
- HSR Sydney to Newcastle Business Case
- Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Advisory Services
- Aboriginal Participation and Engagement Services
- Commercial, Delivery Strategy and Industry Engagement Services
- Economics, Funding & Financing and Demand Modelling Services
- Project Controls Services
- Technical Advisory, Design and Environment Assessment Services
- Transport, Land Use and Property Advisory Services

For further information, go to [AusTender](#) or contact the Procurement Officer on +612 6274 7111 or at info@hsra.gov.au.

Meeting with HSRA CEO Tim Parker confirmed

AuHSR and FastrackAustralia representatives will meet with HSRA CEO Tim Parker in March to share views on bringing HSR to Australia. The agenda has yet to be finalised but is likely to feature work by John Alexander, Garry Glazebrook and Joe Langley.

John was chair of a number of in-depth inquiries into regional development, housing affordability and high speed and regional fast rail during his 11 year career as the Federal member for Bennelong. Garry has developed detailed, cost effective staging plans for transitioning existing obsolete rail networks and services to HSR and fast rail standards, including fast freight. Joe's work for TfNSW on value capture funding for major projects was recommended as a funding approach in the recent NSW government inquiry into Sydney Metro West.

Senator Bridget McKenzie is on board

AuHSR and FastrackAustralia had a very productive virtual meeting with the Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transportation and Regional Development, National's Senator Bridget McKenzie, on 19 February 2024. Since her election in 2010, Senator McKenzie has been a strong supporter of regional issues and has held ministerial appointments in Rural Health, Regional Communications, Agriculture and Emergency Management.

Our presentation to Senator McKenzie and her senior policy advisor touched on four topics regarding planning for HSR:

- Getting the public onside
- Building real commitments on value sharing to fund rail infrastructure
- Speeding up implementation
- Decentralisation and regional development

Senator McKenzie is a strong supporter of HSR and welcomed our support in developing a long term, bipartisan approach to HSR and fast regional rail networks in Australia. Future discussions with Senator McKenzie will focus on establishing a “Virtual Bi-Partisan HSR Cabinet” in Parliament. This idea, suggested by AuHSR Deputy Chairman John Alexander, envisions a cross-party parliamentary body to lift HSR funding and strategy out of election cycle decision-making to gain broadly-based political support for HSR, as the Spanish and Japanese governments have successfully done.

Thailand Rail 2024 Conference

AuHSR Director Steven Scicluna will be presenting at the Thailand Rail 2024 conference to be held on 18-19 March in Bangkok. You can browse the Conference brochure here - [Thailand Rail 2024 Conference](#).

The conference will cover presentations from government agencies and the private sector within ASEAN in relation to light, metro, urban and fast/high speed rail.

Steven’s presentation, Alternative Cost Recovery Pathways for High Speed Rail, encompasses strategic planning for financial viability, value-add strategies involving multiple industries and challenges faced by these industries, alternative asset management through supply chain sustainability/optimisation, and international partnerships.

Committee Chairs and Members needed

Help us grow!

The AuHSR Board is preparing to launch three committees and is seeking volunteers to give their time and talents to these important roles.

The first task of the **Fundraising Committee** will be to kick-off a Major Donor Campaign focusing on building a stakeholder network in the Sydney to Canberra corridor. Joe Langley is leading this Committee pending appointment of a permanent Chair. Email Joe directly at joe.langley@auhsr.org if you are interesting in signing up.

Geoff Gourley is heading up the **Membership Committee**, with a goal of bringing corporate sponsors on board. Email Geoff at membership@auhsr.org.

Steven Scicluna is organising the **Events Committee** to plan functions in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra for later this year. If you can help Steven in any of those locations, email him at steven.scicluna@auhsr.org.

Visit our website - www.auhsr.org

Contact us - joe.langley@auhsr.org

Join us - [Membership application form](#)

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