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## **AuHSR Newsletter**

**January 2024 (updated \*)**

\* Editor's note: this update corrects the link to the AuHSR – Fastrack Pre-Budget Submission.

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## The wait is over! HSRA CEO announced

Tim Parker has been appointed as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the [High Speed Rail Authority](#).

Many AuHSR Members will already know Tim as the affable Head of Project Delivery at Sydney Metro.

Tim brings over 30 years of experience in complex infrastructure projects to the role and has been at Sydney Metro since 2018.

He earned a BSC (Hon) in Environmental Engineering from London South Bank University and an MBA from Brunel University.

AuHRA looks forward to meeting with Tim and contributing to his and the Authority's success.



## AuHSR – Fastrack lodge Pre-Budget Submission

AuHSR has joined forces with sister association [Fastrack Australia](#) to lodge a Pre-Budget Submission to the Federal government on high speed rail. The full submission can be downloaded from here – [2024-25 Pre-Budget Submission](#).

The Submission makes 10 recommendations covering the following topics:

1. The Australian Government, in conjunction with State and Territory governments, should develop a national plan of settlement, providing a national vision for our cities and regions across the next fifty years.
2. The Federal Department of Transport should conduct a study to establish the economic case for a national rail network connecting all regional cities in the southeast of mainland Australia with high speed and interconnected faster rail lines.
3. The Federal Department of Transport should develop an overarching national rail plan that provides a strategy for the development of high speed rail and the interconnected expansion of regional faster rail in the southeast of Australia.
4. The Federal Department of Transport should investigate as an immediate priority the potential for a high-speed station at Rosehill Racecourse, connected to the Metro West line and the Parramatta light rail line, together with a high-speed corridor through Sydney from Macarthur to Glenfield, Liverpool, Rosehill, Epping and Hawkesbury River.
5. The Federal Department of Transport, in conjunction with the High Speed Rail Authority, the NSW State Government and the ACT Government, should establish a project to implement high speed rail from Canberra to Goulburn and Yass.
6. The High Speed Rail Authority should commence the planning for the next stages of high speed rail to be implemented in the corridors connecting Melbourne to Sydney and Sydney to Newcastle.
7. The Federal Department of Transport, in conjunction with the High Speed Rail Authority, ARTC and the rail freight industry, should undertake a detailed analysis of rail freight in the Sydney – Melbourne corridor, and of the potential to

- significantly increase rail's mode share in conjunction with staged development of high speed rail.
8. The Federal Department of Transport should commence negotiations with state governments to implement national rail governance arrangements that establish a single national rail network for both freight and passenger services across Australia and enable its upgrade to support faster services to regional cities from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, and ultimately high speed services in the Brisbane-Sydney-Melbourne corridor.
  9. The Federal Department of Transport should examine the establishment of a National Passenger Rail Operator to provide regular inter-state passenger train services. These should include comfortable overnight sleeper trains as well as faster tilt-trains, and in the longer term, high-speed trains.
  10. The Australian Government should develop cost-sharing arrangements with the State and Territory governments for major transport investments based on land value capture and beneficiary pays principles.

## **AuHSR's 2024 Strategic Plan and Objectives**

AuHSR's Vision for the Future is that Australians living in urban centres and regional areas will have access to high quality jobs, affordable housing, advanced education facilities and specialised medical services via fast, modern and sustainable rail services.

Our Strategic Plan sets out objectives, actions and timeframes for achieving this Vision.

AuHSR's Board of Directors held its first annual Strategic Planning Day on 10 January 2024. The Board adopted the following draft Objectives to guide the development of specific actions, responsibilities and timeframes to be implemented during 2024 and beyond:

### **Membership:**

Attract and retain members who support the purpose and objectives of the AuHSR and are able to fill key Board, management, technical and volunteer roles.

### **Governance:**

Adopt and adhere to governance principles, frameworks and processes that meet the standards set for not-for-profit organisations by peak bodies such as the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC).

### **Administration:**

Set up well-functioning administrative and corporate infrastructure, processes and resources to support the Board and Members.

### **Fundraising:**

Develop and implement membership and fundraising strategies that attract new members and provide tangible value to a broad range of stakeholders.

### **Donors and Sponsors:**

Develop a strategy and implementation plan to attract donors and sponsors who will financially support AuHSR's Vision, Purpose and Objectives.

**Committees and Working Groups:**

Establish committees and working groups to provide depth of research, technical knowledge and additional resources in key HSR subject areas.

**Media and Communications:**

Develop and implement a well-informed media and communications strategy to communicate the AuHSR's visions and positions on planning, developing and delivering high speed and faster rail networks in Australia.

**Stakeholder Engagement:**

Develop strong, positive and mutually beneficial relationships, partnerships and advocacy programs with government agencies, organisations and individuals in support of high speed and faster rail development in Australia.

**Risk Management:**

Develop and maintain a risk management system to identify, evaluate, reduce and manage risks and take advantage of emerging opportunities.

**EOIs for Director and Committee Chair roles**

In furtherance of our Vision, AuHSR is seeking Expressions Of Interest, leading to nominations from qualified individuals to serve as Directors and Committee Chairs of the Association. For detailed information on Director roles, see [Expressions of Interest for Directors](#).

Committee chairs and members are needed for the following committees:

- Fundraising
- Media and Communications
- Membership

If you have questions or need additional details about serving on AuHSR committees, please email Damien Ottaviano, AuHSR Secretary – [damien.ottaviano@auhsr.org](mailto:damien.ottaviano@auhsr.org)

## About AuHSR

### Our website:

<https://www.auhsr.org/>

### Contact us:

Damien Ottaviano, Secretary –  
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### Submit newsletter articles:

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