

QUT Digital Repository:  
<http://eprints.qut.edu.au/>



Bunker, Jonathan M. (2009) *AITPM Email Newsletter Volume 0911, November 2009 : President's Message*. Australian Institute of Traffic Planning and Management Incorporated Newsletter : Volume 0911, November 2009.

© Copyright 2009 [please consult the author]

## President's Report

Hello fellow AITPM members,

It is interesting to follow the news at present, where transport costs are getting a significant airing. Treasury Secretary Dr Ken Henry has enunciated something Australians may have considered extremely radical just a few years back, but in the present time appears to quite a few to be a realistic alternative. That being a rethink of the way we are charged for using our vehicles. It appears that serious consideration is being given to congestion charging, perhaps in place at least to some extent, of fuel excise. As a transport professional I am pleased that the debate has elevated to the national level, and would look forward that AITPM might contribute appropriately to it.

As a motorist though, I naturally have my concerns about being hit in the hip pocket. Not that I actually drive during congested periods very much. I am fortunate to live five minutes either side of two well serviced bus corridors, one of which will eventually become a busway,

Best regards to all,

Jon Bunker

and work in the central business district, which is hub from all spokes in Brisbane. As such, bus and foot are my preferred commute modes. Ah but I should not gloat, as my smart card fare is about to increase by 20 percent in the New Year! And if the newspapers are to be believed, further substantial increments are proposed over the coming few years. This is reported to recoup some more of the costs of actually providing the quality public transport system that we enjoy in our region.

So I expect it will be very interesting to see how transport economics will play out in reality in the coming few years, and how governments cater to Australians who either cannot afford substantial increases in transport costs or have no viable alternatives to those facilities whose costs will increase.

The 2010 AITPM National Conference, "What's New?", still has the opportunity for authors to submit an abstract for consideration so please consider how you might contribute to the event.



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE  
OF TRAFFIC PLANNING  
AND MANAGEMENT  
INCORPORATED