



10 July 2018

Automated Vehicle Team  
National Transport Commission  
Level 3/600 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Sir/Madam

**Safety assurance for automated driving systems consultation regulation impact statement**

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) is the voice of Australian farmers.

The NFF was established in 1979 as the national peak body representing farmers and more broadly, agriculture across Australia. The NFF's membership comprises all of Australia's major agricultural commodities across the breadth and the length of the supply chain.

Operating under a federated structure, individual farmers join their respective state farm organisation and/or national commodity council. These organisations form the NFF.

The NFF represents Australian agriculture on national and foreign policy issues including workplace relations, trade and natural resource management. Our members complement this work through the delivery of direct 'grass roots' member services as well as state-based policy and commodity-specific interests.

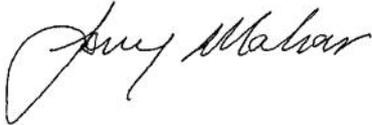
The NFF appreciates the opportunity to comment on the National Transport Commission's inquiry into a safety assurance system for automated vehicles. As the NFF is a supporting partner of the Australian and New Zealand Driverless Vehicle Initiative (ADVI), the NFF supports the views expressed in the ADVI submission.

In addition to the ADVI submission, the NFF would like to highlight that the consultation paper is highly focused on passenger vehicles in metropolitan/urban areas, and would suggest that the scope of this and future inquiries be extended to include rural and remote areas as well as a broader range of vehicles. The potential for driverless vehicles (and other farm machinery) to revolutionise the way farming business is conducted is significant.

Already, many farmers deploy a range of automated machinery in their businesses. Grain growers, for example, 'drive' tractors and harvesters that are almost completely automated through the application of global positioning systems. The potential for farms to be able to utilise fully automated machinery in farming operations and then move on to other tasks has the potential to be a game changer for how agriculture is carried out in this country and across the world.

To achieve our vision of a prosperous farming industry, the sector needs regulatory and public policy settings that foster growth and productivity; innovation and ambition. This includes access to new technologies as Australian farmers are renowned to be early adopters with a track record of rapid uptake of higher productivity technologies. The NFF looks forward to engaging with the NTC to further explore the safe and reliable use of automated vehicles in Australia.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Mahar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T' and 'M'.

**TONY MAHAR**

**CEO**