A sustainability approach to Metropolitan people movement by cars, PT & active transport.

Date and location. May 24, 6.00 pm at Engineers Australia, Level 31, 600 Bourke St, Melbourne

Objective: To provide a perspective on how sustainable each mode may be in meeting EA sustainability policy, implications for future policies, and to adopt a holistic and life cycle view in comparing the three main modes of people movement.

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It is recognised that in large urban areas, the urban form is also a critical factor that needs to be integrated but time will not permit other than a fleeting reference to how this will impact on each people movement mode.

The reference to a holistic and life cycle approach ⁽¹⁾ (no great detail is expected unless data is readily available) is meant to provide an opportunity to reflect on the broader aspects of different modes on human health, changing technologies and culture, and ultimately what that means for engineering.

The people movement issue has deliberately been isolated from freight movement to limit complexity. It is noted that much of the concern and costs associated with congestion are related to people movement compared with the freight effort. It is also noted that many personal trips are frequently complex and not always single purpose.

The intention of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) event, which is one of many by Engineers Australia, is to broaden the knowledge of Engineers about matters they should be aware of beyond their original professional training.

Proposed Event structure.

Opening welcome including acknowledgement of the traditional owners of the land and a brief explanation of EA policies covering sustainability and climate and implementation proposals. (5 mins)

Speaker 1. Future of the car (or other similar modes such as pods, shared car use, driverless) use and how can it provide a sustainable metropolitan personal transport mode in the coming decades. What changes may be anticipated and the form they should take to improve sustainability of this mode. (20 mins)

Speaker 2. Future of Public Transport modes and what role they may have in providing a sustainable metropolitan people movement mode in the coming decades. What changes may be anticipated and the form they should take to improve sustainability of this mode. (20 mins)

Speaker 3. Future of active transport and what role they may have in providing a sustainable metropolitan people movement mode in the coming decades. What changes may be anticipated and the form they should take to improve sustainability of this mode. (20 mins)

Panel Session. Q & A session. (45 mins).

Conclusion. Presentation and thanks to speakers. (5 mins)

(1) One example of life cycle assessment – see "Life-Cycle Assessment for transportation Decision-making": Mikhail Chester, Juan Matute, Paul Bunje, William Iesenstein, Stphanie Pincetl, Zoe Elizabeth, Connery Cepeda : UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability; PIER (Public Interest Energy Research).