Robert Blackham submission Received 19 May 2024

Re: The regulatory framework for automated vehicles in Australia February 2022

I do see a gap in the regulatory framework (missing from section 6.5) on this point: will other human drivers (including law enforcement) on the road get some sort of signal to make them aware in real time that the person sitting in the front seat is not actually driving this car?

This Policy Paper doesn't seem to address the issue of "social licence". Road rage is already a problem, people resent that electric cars are entitled to parking bays which have been converted to charging bays, while ICE cars are not. I can imagine someone getting irrationally angry in trying to come to terms with the fact that none of the people in the car are the driver, that the car is driving itself. Resentment could come to the boil if for example they feel they missed out on a parking space in a shopping centre and none of the passengers in the self-driving car saw it coming or understand the feelings of the other driver.

Prominent window stickers (front and back) might work, assuming the self-driving car doesn't need its windows to see where it's going. Or maybe a distinctive style of licence plate (although people already compete to make their licence plates distinctive).

The ADS sticker or license plate might also show an expiry date or due date of the next inspection or test of roadworthiness, if there is one. It would be useful to name the ADSE.

Best regards

