



Word from the President

September 2020

Let me start firstly by acknowledging the industry's adaptability during the ever-present elephant in the room and its latest community transmission.

Despite having Auckland's Alert Level ratcheted up to 3 in August – and the rest of the country to 2 – I know members and crane operators are carrying on as best they can.

They continue to do our industry a service by cementing our strength during uncertain times.

However, it did mean we had a disrupted Council meeting on August 13 due to COVID-19, changing the venue to the now tried and true Zoom meeting place instead of the preferred face-to-face meeting.

This means the Council has not seen each other in person since February. It also meant we couldn't formally bid farewell to former Chief Executive, Sally Dunbar, and welcome new Executive Officer, Sarah Toase.

You will find a story about the Association's newest recruit in this month's newsletter, featuring what drives Sarah and her priorities going forward.

While crucial to any future industry and Association planning, sometimes an overabundance of information can be detrimental.

That's true for the COVID-19 situation, where there isn't anything new to report except maybe the suffering many may be feeling from the info-overload.

Unfortunately, it seems the new normal will be one where we must live with it for some time yet.

Nevertheless, on to some good news – we had a very productive online meeting with the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) regarding how the Road User Charges (RUC) are assessed for cranes.

NZTA has been proactive and cooperative in cleaning up the changes that were made two years ago, and they are releasing an educational document to industry which I urge all members to get their hands on.

Additionally, NZTA are now better aware of how our industry conducts itself. So, that should be reciprocated by us, too.

We should be better aware of their requirements as there will not be any tolerance for those not complying with the RUC regulation.

Sticking on the good news front, the Council has decided not to raise the membership renewal subscription by the CPI increase as was mandated, due to the financial pain many are currently enduring.

While the Association will likely endure a bit of pain, we'd rather it was borne by us and not you – our members.

The RUC and Swept Path achievements are good reminders about why you would want to continue your Association membership – there will always be more strength in numbers as we continue to fight and advocate on your behalf.

Tony Gibson

President

Crane Association of New Zealand