In this edition of Infrastructure Update we talk with two infrastructure leaders and members of the SMART Advisory Council – Yvonne von Hartel AM, of peckvonhartel, and Shirley In’t Veld who is the Managing Director of Verve Energy.

Ms Hartel’s firm is headquartered in Melbourne and Ms In’t Veld is in Perth, which reflects the national scope of SMART’s engagement and thinking. Each of these videos uncovers some interesting views.

In late February, SMART held the Economics and Policy Workshop at the Facility and the inaugural SMART Dinner with special guest speaker Rod Sims, Chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. Each event was a great success attracting national and international practitioners. I would like to also thank our workshop sponsor the NSW Treasury, and in particular Mr Phil Gaetjens, Treasury Secretary.

The Workshop was subtitled – “New Tools for New Problems” – and was developed by SMART’s Professor of Infrastructure Economics, Henry Ergas, to shine a light on how infrastructure regulation has evolved in Australia over the last few decades. The workshop has contributed in its own way to how the next steps are taken in the regulation of infrastructure.

To complement the workshop we invited the Chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Rod Sims, to be the guest speaker at the SMART Dinner.

Mr Sims gave his presentation entitled, “Infrastructure: why, when and how to regulate”, before an audience including the new UOW Vice Chancellor, Professor Paul Wellings, and infrastructure leaders from across the private and public sectors.

Mr Sims used the occasion to make some strong comments on infrastructure regulation, leading to a string of questions from the audience after his address. Further information on Mr Sims address is covered in the newsletter.

Mr Sims said that having a SMART Infrastructure Facility dedicated to infrastructure was a “great idea” and that, “it’s important for Australia’s growth and that’s why I am pleased to be here tonight helping in whatever way I can.”

The newsletter also reports on our nation wide consultation on the concept and measurement of Liveability. A notion that is critical to our simulation and modelling project work for Transport for NSW.

Garry Bowditch - CEO, SMART Infrastructure Facility
INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH WEST AUSTRALIAN EYES

Shirley In’t Veld is Managing Director of Verve Energy in West Australia and member of the SMART Advisory Council. In our interview she discusses issues relating to infrastructure in Perth and Western Australia, plus how research can benefit industry.

To watch the video click [here](#).

BROADENING THE DEBATE ON INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION

Chairman of the ACCC, Rod Sims, has called for a broader debate around the regulatory frameworks in the infrastructure sector, stating that a fundamental shift in the regulatory landscape would deliver greater efficiency and investment certainty.

During his presentation at the inaugural SMART Dinner, Mr Sims was critical of the Productivity Commission's draft report on urban water, which advocates the removal of independent price regulation of urban water utilities.

However, Mr Sims described the Productivity Commission's forthcoming review of the National Access Regime, including Part IIIA of the Trade Practices Act, as a key opportunity for reform.

To read an article on the event click [here](#). View a copy of Rod Sims’ speech [here](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Yvonne von Hartel AM, is a Founding Principal at peckvonhartel, (architecture & urban design) and member of the SMART Advisory Council. Here she talks on design as a key component in holistic infrastructure planning, plus the importance of public art and community engagement.

To watch the video click [here](#).

DESIGNING URBAN LIVEABILITY: FROM STATIC INDICES TO DYNAMICAL PERCEPTIONS

The concept of liveability and its impact on behaviour has become a key element of the decision support simulation that SMART has built for Transport for NSW. SMART’s Professor of Infrastructure Systems Peter Campbell, Professor of Simulation and Modelling Pascal Perez and Chief Operating Officer Tania Brown recently held a series of meetings with government, academic and industry leaders to discuss how the
The concept of ‘liveability’ is being used in the design and management of land use and transport planning.

To read more click [here](#).

**SIMULATION AUSTRALIA’S SMART APPOINTMENT**

SMART has appointed Dr Mark Ho as the Associate Professor of Rail Logistics to drive the research capability supporting and championing the role of rail in the broader transport network. Mark will liaise and collaborate with researchers across the faculties of UOW such as Engineering, Commerce, Informatics and the Sydney Business School.

Working together with Andrew McCusker the Director of Rail Logistics, Mark will manage academic and publication activities at SMART’s Rail Logistics group and teach research students and staff.

Prior to joining SMART, Mark was Associate Professor at the Queensland University of Technology and before that he worked for 18 years at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

His research interests include railway simulation and modelling, signalling and train control, maintenance and condition monitoring and open access railway markets. He has been leading a number of government funded and industry-sponsored projects on railway operation and management.