

Independent Motor Vehicle Industry Association Inc

Chairperson Report for the 2022/23 Financial Year

Greetings fellow Members, Sponsors, and supporters.

I have recently been appointed as the Board Chairperson since Chris Stephenson stepped down from the roll.

On behalf of the Board, the Council and Membership, and VIA Staff, I would like to thank Chris for his leadership over the last 3 years. He has guided the organisation through significant structural changes during his tenure and now leaves us with a more 'fit for purpose' and lean organisation moving forward.

This last year has seen much activity in VIA's sphere.

New Government Policy introductions, rapid inflation, and the resulting general NZ economic state, and post COVID supply chain issues have affected our industry and accordingly its Association workload.

At the same time, the VIA Team has reduced its hours of operation in order to balance overheads with industry need.

The CEO hours were reduced to 20 hours per week, the Technical Support person (Malcolm Yorston) reduced to 3 days per week, and our Policy Analyst (Kit Wilkinson) retained on fulltime hours. This reduction in man hours was accompanied by a reduction in pay for those commensurate with their new hours.

This measure was taken by the Board to attempt balancing the budget as operating costs was the only option left considering no new significant membership support was forthcoming.

In hindsight, and with ongoing discussions within the Board, such reduction in human resource hours is not the preferred modus operandi for the future. Given what the Association staff faced as a workload over the last year, it placed a significant strain on the Team to ensure all bases were covered. As an industry, we must find a way to adequately fund our "face" to the Government Ministers, Departments and officials, our fellow industry players, and indeed our industry members in order to ensure the used import industry is well represented.

You will have received notification of a 7% membership fee increase. This will go some way towards allowing VIA to keep up with ever increasing operational costs. While this places more burden on you all, this action had to be done and the Board regardless.

Industry needs VIA and VIA needs more industry support.

You may also be aware that in October 2022, the Board (at its own cost) travelled to Wellington to meet specifically with the Transport Minister Michael Wood. This was post engaging the services of Mai Chen of Public Law Toolbox on behalf of VIA, to get Board members access to the Minister.

While VIA staff were working furiously on officials to understand the potential disaster they were considering implementing for CCS, most of the Board were adamant we needed get the issues tabled with the Minister in a face-to-face manner, and in a one-off action, proceeded without the CEO's support.

Board members that supported this remain of the opinion that, despite the cost of this action on VIA, it was taken in the best interests of the membership and industry, and following on from both this, the VIA standing and value has dramatically improved within the eyes of Government officials.

VIA is also seeing a changing of the guard, with David Vinsen stepping down from the CEO Role.

David has spearheaded the organisation for the past 20 years and is very well known throughout the industry and Government. I have had the pleasure of working for, with and above David during these two decades, and I can say – it's been an exceptional journey for David as well as the industry.

On behalf of the Association and indeed wider industry, I express our sincerest thanks to David for his commitment, support, action and achievements made during his tenure.

His broad experience and range of contacts will be missed for quite some time.

We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

At this stage, the Board has not found the right person to take over the reigns from David and the search continues.

The role requires a very energetic person, and one with some very unique skills to develop and maintain relationships with both industry, Govt officials and Politicians. The Board recognises the importance of this and will appoint someone who they feel will be the best fit.

In the interim, Malcolm and Kit have a lot of work they can continue on with and take guidance from the Board when required.

Frank Willett

Chairman

VIA