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## Board Communique — April 2022

Dear Fellows,

The Board was very pleased to meet in Brisbane last week, its first face-to-face meeting in a year. This provided the Board with the opportunity to host a networking event with Queensland Fellows, Awardees, and friends.

It was a welcome opportunity to re-connect with old friends and colleagues, and to meet new. We were indebted to the Queensland Division for their support in arranging and MC'ing the event. It was heartening to hear stories of how ATSE's awards have effected change for recipients and the people who work with them. One awardee – an academic who boasts an impressive commercialisation record at the expense of their publication rate – spoke about how the award had ensured their job security and opened opportunities for promotion. Another told of how they'd shared the award with their team, encouraging team members at all levels to mention it on their CVs, leading to amplified opportunities for the whole team.

At our meeting the following day, the Board reflected on the strategic plan – nearly one year in – and the ever-changing external context in which ATSE operates. We discussed strategic priorities for the financial year ahead through the lens of the three key priority issues as nominated by the Fellowship: mitigating and adapting to climate change, exciting and educating young people in STEM, and enhancing research collaboration, translation and commercialisation. Expressing a strong desire to support a game-changing approach to STEM education and reverse the steady decline in Australian students' achievement, the Board looks forward to working with Forums on their major education and skills report this year, and Divisions on advocating with state and territory governments.

Another major focus of discussion was shaping the Fellowship for the future. Vice President Membership, Doreen Thomas, and a small committee have been working on an options paper in discussion with Assembly and the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, and we look forward to formally considering this. We thank all Fellows who took the time to identify and nominate candidates for Fellowship this year, and look forward to receiving the final recommendations of the Membership Committee in due course.

The Board also looks forward to further discussing strategic priorities with Assembly on October 25 in Sydney: we hope to see a strong turn-out of Fellows at the ACTIVATE event to follow (October 26-27), at which new Fellows will be welcomed to the Academy, and awardees celebrated.

Yours sincerely,

**The Directors of the Board**  
**26 April 2022**

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ACTIVATE 2022 will bring together 500 high-level representatives from across government, business and academia and feature keynote conversations between global and national future shapers, prominent technology entrepreneurs, industry leaders and researchers who will share their vision for a technology powered, human driven future for all Australians.

This event will:

**Unite** Australia's leading engineering and technology entrepreneurs to ensure the Australian Academy of Technology & Engineering (ATSE) helps build a sustainable and prosperous Australia.

**Celebrate** local and global excellence in applied science, technology and engineering and award Australia's emerging innovators.

**Activate** policymakers, CEOs and academics in charting a course for Australia's globally focused STEM workforce and catalyse a technology-powered, human-driven future.

**[ACTIVATE 2022 registration opens tomorrow 27 April.](#)**

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The Academy acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we meet and work.  
We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.