Dear CROSS-AUS Subscriber,

CROSS-AUS (Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety – Australasia) was launched on 26 September 2018 by the then President of the Institution of Structural Engineers, Faith Wainwright, at ASEC2018 in Adelaide, with the words: *As professional engineers we have a profound duty to ensure the safety of all those who use the structures we design and build. Sharing feedback on near misses or concerns is not always easy and CROSS is a successful community platform to allow professionals to do this simply, without attributing blame.*

At a time when the construction industry is under intense public scrutiny, it is more important than ever that we learn from each other’s experiences and CROSS-AUS provides a means whereby we can all contribute towards improving quality and safety in our industry; and we can do this in a confidential, no-blame environment.

What have we achieved in the past year?

1. In addition to the 6 founding CROSS-AUS Directors, we now have an expert Panel of 10 including engineers from different backgrounds with a breadth of expertise who provide expert commentary on our published reports. Details are on the People page of our website.

2. We have published 2 Newsletters with 11 Reports covering a range of topics from problems with roof soffit linings (Report 462) to more fundamental questions of competency and the quality of structural design (Report AUS-8).

3. In June, we made a submission in response to the NSW Government Discussion Paper -Building Stronger Foundations. This is available on our website at CROSS-AUS Submission to NSW Government.

4. In July, we participated in the Engineered Safety Symposium in Adelaide, organised by EA’s South Australia Division. This was a very informative event with a wide range of participants covering mining, defence, education, cyber security and systems engineering.

5. We have held discussions with a range of bodies with an interest in this area, including The Warren Centre, Consult Australia and Australia Industry Group.

CROSS International has taken a significant step forward with the establishment of CROSS-US in America. Principal objectives of the International system are to provide a central resource for managing confidential reporting systems, to provide advice and assistance in the operation of such systems, and to facilitate the exchange of information between national reporting systems.

CROSS-AUS relies upon receiving reports to enable it to function - and there is always a need for more. Names and identifying details are never revealed or published, nobody is ever blamed, and all reports with associated expert comments are available on the database at no cost.

If you have experienced a safety related concern or event relating to design, or construction, or during the life of a structure, or indeed during demolition, then we encourage you to submit a report so that others can learn from your experience.

Mike Fordyce
CROSS-AUS Director