



## Australian Flexible Pavement Association media release

# AfPA Welcomes Commonwealth Funding for Roads

21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

AfPA welcomes \$1B boost to the federal and local government partnership for investment into local roads and community infrastructure

The Australian flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) applauds the Commonwealth Government for its ongoing support of funding for local government infrastructure through the Financial Assistance Grants (FAG) program which directly benefit councils and the communities they serve.

The announcement meant continuing support for a range of local road and infrastructure initiatives that include:

- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program - \$1 billion over two years, taking total funding of this initiative to \$1.5 billion.
- National Road Safety Program – a \$2 billion commitment over two years to improve safety conditions on roads.
- Black Spot Program - \$137 million to improve the safety of road sites that have been identified as high-risk areas for serious crashes.
- Bridges Renewal Program - \$89.7 million to replace or upgrade bridges across the nation.
- Roads to Recovery – more than \$590 million for national roads maintenance, an increase of more than \$90 million from 2019-20.

Councils throughout Australia rely on the FAGs program to augment their own funding of infrastructure. The continuing investment into local road network is particularly critical in the non-metro areas of Australia where the roads are the arterials pumping lifeblood into regional communities transporting goods, produce and access to services, medical treatment and connections to family and friends.

While international borders remain closed these roads are also connecting Australians to places in Australia helping drive domestic tourism that will lead the recovery. Regional communities are there with open arms and this funding will ensure that our domestic tourists are able to travel safely on well-maintained roads.

Recognising the importance of the FAG programme AfPA supports calls by others in restoring the indexation of FAGs ALGA is calling on the Australian Government to immediately lift the freeze on the indexation of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs). This will help local councils better fund the ongoing investment in the road network and address the increasing costs of maintaining this critical infrastructure.