



Australian flexible Pavement Association media release

AfPA welcomes Queensland Government Budget while calling for a longer-term plan

22nd June 2021

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) last week welcomed the Queensland Government's 2021-22 Budget, which saw continued investment into infrastructure that underpins the state's economic growth.

AfPA also called on the government to make longer-term funding commitments and expedite project pipelines to keep the infrastructure program moving.

The Budget has a capital program of \$14.7 billion for infrastructure in 2021–22. Continuing investment into the local and State road networks particularly critical in regional areas, where the arterial roads pump lifeblood into regional communities transporting goods, produce and providing access to services, medical treatment and connections to family and friends.

AfPA Executive Director for Queensland Mark Piorkowski said:

"The Queensland Government's Budget has the potential to put the state and our industry on the road to success. We are delighted to see billions invested into much-needed road infrastructure, but it is also critical the government takes a longer-term view to secure the best return on investment.

AfPA and its members have long advocated for the need to not just build new infrastructure but to establish a longer-term maintenance funding pipeline, targeting investment over 2-3 years. We also need to see governments at all levels work collaboratively to expedite project pipelines and address any backlogs. An effective longer-term maintenance funding pipeline not only protects the governments biggest asset by value, which is our roads, but also channels funding into shovel-ready projects that immediately generates local jobs and results in local benefits.

This would improve the safety and security of our transport system, while building certainty and confidence within the industry, leading to long-term planning, investment in training and creating jobs for Queenslanders. With increased certainty, industry can take on greater risk, unleash innovation and drive greater value for money by maximising economies of scale.

We are looking forward to working with the government, and our members, to bring these infrastructure projects to life, while continuing to advocate for long-term commitments that can set up the state for future success."



The Queensland Government Budget include the following spending commitments:

- The M1 Pacific Highway will see a range of upgrades during the 2021–22 year. Jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments, the works are designed to improve safety and help drive productivity and competitiveness across Southeast Queensland
The M1 program of works is delivering major projects, such as the Varsity Lakes to Tugun upgrade, Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade, and the Yatala South (Exit 41) and Pimpama (Exit 49) interchange upgrades
The M1 program of works is complemented by the jointly funded \$1.5 billion Coomera Connector (Stage 1) project between Nerang and Coomera, to provide for a “second M1”
- \$36.6 million towards constructing a 4-lane duplication of Mount Lindesay Highway between Stoney Camp Road and Chambers Flat Road interchanges at Munruben, at a total estimated cost of \$75 million
- \$1.1 billion for the Rockhampton Ring Road project
- \$1 billion for the 26km Cooroy to Curra upgrade near Gympie
- \$662.5 million for widening between Caboolture-Bribie Island Road and Steve Irwin Way
- \$514.3 million to construct bridges and approaches on the Haughton River Floodplain
- \$481 million for widening as part of the Cairns Southern Access Corridor Stage 3 project
- \$230 million for the Townsville Ring Road (stage 5)
- \$120.4 million for the Mackay Northern Access Upgrade project
- \$150 million for the Walkerston Bypass – to construct a new two-lane highway connecting Peak Downs Highway to the Mackay Ring Road