



Australian Flexible Pavement Association media release

AfPA Symposium shows the road to sustainable future

More than 500 road and infrastructure industry professionals from around the world joined the Australian Flexible Pavement Association's 19th Symposium: Roads Going Full Circle, where sustainability was high on the agenda on the eve of the publication of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report.

The report shows the urgent need for action to address climate change and attendees heard from industry and government leaders in the US and Europe on the measures being taken to deliver sustainable roads. Measures include innovation in materials as Symposium attendees heard that bitumen is likely to be excluded in the production of fuels from the oil refining process as 2050 net zero goals are reached.

The Symposium also provided the opportunity for AfPA to introduce its Sustainability Framework for Asphalt which highlights best practice among members and will drive up sustainability standards across the industry. The framework includes the collection of data at plant-level which informs a certification system providing a pathway to Environmental Product Declarations

Robert Vos, Sustainability Director at AfPA, chaired the second day of the Symposium which focused on sustainability and the circular economy. He says that sustainability is a key focus for the industry and members are already moving towards circularity.

"We know there is tremendous interest from AfPA members in making road building, maintenance and material manufacturing sustainable. This isn't easy and Australia is behind some regions like the US and Europe. That's why it was invaluable to hear from international experts on the steps they are taking to drive up environmental standards & outcomes.

"This week's report from the IPCC shows the urgency of every industry and government collaborating to reduce emissions and the environmental impact of our activities", he said.

The Symposium also covered other key issues for industry including health and safety and engineering and construction.

Carlos Rial, CEO of AfPA said:

"I want to thank speakers and attendees for making the Symposium a success, which we hope will help to advance the industry in Australia. It's clear there is huge interest in developing sustainable roads in the future and AfPA is looking forward to rolling out its sustainability framework to support industry to do this."