



**Australian Flexible Pavement Association media release**

## **Cutting Ribbon is Good, Maintenance is Better - AfPA Welcomes 2021 State of the Assets Report**

**Thursday 09<sup>th</sup> December**

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) has today welcomed the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) 2021 State of the Assets Report, lauding the reports focus on the importance of maintenance above the announcement of new infrastructure projects.

The State of the Assets report is the latest health check on local government assets since 2018 and contains valuable insights and statistics that will inform the strategic allocation of funding that benefits Australians.

This year's report shows that much of Australia's assets are in disrepair, highlighting the need for the restoration and upgrade of public infrastructure. The report revealing that 10% of all local government assets need significant attention.

A key focus of the report was the condition of Australia's roads, revealing that 8% of sealed roads and 14% of unsealed roads are in poor condition, function and capacity and are close to reaching the end of their useful life. With a total replacement cost of \$204bn these figures highlight the critical need for healthy, sustainable pipelines of maintenance across the nation.

Tanja Conners, A/CEO of AfPA, said:

"We welcome ALGA's support in our shared belief that whilst new projects are important, maintenance and upkeep are the most important thing we can do to improve our strategic assets and certainly our roads, now.

"To improve our existing roads, we need all levels of government to collaborate with industry, which plays a critical role in the delivery of maintenance programs, as early as possible in the planning process.

"Local roads make up 77% of the national network by length, represent \$133 bn of infrastructure value and make up 39% of local government infrastructure. Simply put, the recognition of the need to fund and maintain this asset is critical not only for councils but also their local communities.

"Reports such as these are crucial for our nation and contain insights that ensure our sustainable, prosperous growth into the future."

For more information, visit:

[https://alga.asn.au/app/uploads/ALGA\\_NSotA\\_SummaryReport2021.pdf](https://alga.asn.au/app/uploads/ALGA_NSotA_SummaryReport2021.pdf)