



Australian Flexible Pavement Association media release

Separation Saves – AfPA Calls for Better Safety for Aussie Road Workers

Friday 17th December

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) is recognising road safety initiatives that save road workers lives as 2021 draws to a close.

From separation of traffic on the Hume Highway project to specially-designed detours on roadworks in metropolitan Melbourne, it is critical that safety is the number one priority on every road project and keeps workers away from traffic.

More than 1,000 people die and a further 44,000 suffer serious injuries on Australian roads every year. Meanwhile, there have been two tragic deaths of road workers in recent months.

Carlos Rial, CEO of AfPA, said:

“The final months of this year have reinforced the importance of road safety. Every death on our roads is a preventable tragedy and when one is too many to have two in two months is devastating.

“It is important we learn from these incidents and look at safety initiatives that can help protect the workers on our roads. Up and down the country AfPA members are working with governments to implement safety programs that keep workers safe. AfPA supports all these initiatives and continues to call for separation of traffic on road maintenance and building, which is the surest way to protect workers.”

Earlier this year, AfPA, along with Roads Australia, Traffic Management Association of Australia, AustStab and Safer Australian Roads and Highways, launched a campaign calling for:

- Separation of traffic and road workers to always be the first consideration and implemented wherever feasible.
- Support for speed advisory signs in the lead into road works sites, advising drivers where they are over the lowered speed limit.
- A commitment from government to enforce restricted speed limits in work sites through the use of available speed enforcement measures, including point-to-point camera technology and mobile speed cameras.
- The introduction and use of new technology that can accurately determine speeds and advise accordingly and enforce speed limits.
- That any revenue generated from enforcement be directed back into road safety and road condition projects that are linked to a vision of zero harm on the road network.

In 2022, AfPA will continue working with government at all levels to improve safety for road workers including advocating for separation of traffic and road workers wherever possible, introduction of speed cameras and better education for motorists.