



Australian Flexible Pavement Association media release

AfPA calls for road worker safety measures as fatalities increase, despite lockdowns.

Thursday 20th January 2022

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the safety of road workers as road fatalities rose in 2021, despite reduced commuting and vehicle movements as a result of lockdowns.

A 1.4 per cent road fatality increase from 2020, including numerous tragic road worker deaths across Australia, has led many to question how the federal government will meet its goal to reduce road deaths to zero by 2050. A goal that AfPA has stated must include a comprehensive strategy which prevents road work site incidents and needless worker deaths.

AfPA has asserted that separation of traffic and workers through deviations will result in prevention and where this cannot be achieved enforcing restricted speed limits at roadwork sites using available speed enforcement measures, including point-to-point camera technology and mobile speed cameras will reduce this risk.

AfPA's recommendation is based on research conducted by South Australia's Centre for Automotive Safety Research which observed that fixed point-to-point average-speed cameras improved speed and safety where implemented.

Further research conducted internationally by the OECD has supported the use of point-to-point technology, reducing the number of motorists driving at speeds of more than 20km/h over the limit by 84 per cent, with mobile average-speed cameras likely to provide equal benefit.

Research has also suggested that fixed average-speed cameras are more effective than speed cameras in preventing death and reducing accidents, a result which AfPA has said must spark action to prevent further road worker and motorist fatalities.

Carlos Rial, CEO of AfPA, said:

"Ensuring the safety of Australian workers who deliver crucial road work is a significant concern for AfPA and its members, which is why we in partnership with other associations are advocating for a solution-driven approach to slowing down vehicles in and around work zones and ultimately, saving lives.

"Point-to-point camera technology and mobile speed cameras are a clear, proven way that we can reduce road fatalities and where we cannot deviate traffic ensure that workers feel safe and secure delivering the critical maintenance and upgrade projects our nation needs.

"When even one is too many, the tragic loss of 1,126 lives on Australian roads, which includes road workers simply doing their jobs, provides a stark reminder of the need for urgent, innovative action which keeps speeds down."