



Australian Flexible Pavement Association media release

Road Maintenance projects Provide Vital Lifeline Across Australia

Thursday 28th February 2022

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) has commended recent announcements made by The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP and the respective State Governments, committing approximately \$511.5m toward 288 road projects across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia.

The funding is set to support crucial road maintenance works, including road resurfacing, safety barrier installation, lane widening, pavement treatments and much more, all of which are proven to reduce road trauma and save lives.

The staggering number of road upgrade projects are set to support jobs, new business and create enormous economic benefit for each state involved. More importantly than enabling new economic opportunities, the projects are aimed at addressing the tragic toll on Australian roads in 2021, 2.3% higher than the year prior.

The announcements, part of the Australian Government's \$3 billion Road Safety Program, have received praise from AfPA as a reassuring sign that Government recognises exactly what action is needed to prevent fatalities and boost recovery, maintenance and the importance of Governments working together with industry to deliver essential infrastructure.

CEO of AfPA, Carlos Rial, said:

"It is fantastic to see this road funding being allocated to both saving lives and empowering communities and business. These funds will also assist addressing the maintenance backlog of Australian roads which is closely linked to the reliability of our network and the safety of all road users.

"AfPA has long advocated that road maintenance be put at the forefront of road spend, however, it is of the utmost importance that we ensure that our road workers are kept safe during the delivery of these projects. We can achieve this through the separation of road workers and traffic, enforcement of speed limits and innovative camera technology, most recently detailed in AfPA's Federal and State budget submissions.

"The Federal and State Governments are to be commended for their joint recognition of the value of our existing roads. We have seen the importance of our roads being resilient to flood damage, including during the most recent east coast flooding events, this means maintaining our roads to ensure communities remain connected and safe. The flexible pavements industry is currently working with Government to reconnect communities impacted by the floods."