



Australian Flexible Pavement Association media release

## Australian Flexible Pavement Association Welcomes NSW Investment in the “Arteries of the Nation”

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association has welcomed the NSW Government’s 2022-23 State budget, including the announcement of a significant \$112.7 billion for infrastructure, with road and rail dubbed by the NSW Treasurer as “the arteries of the nation”.

AfPA has commended the Government’s recognition of the role that the state’s road infrastructure plays in bolstering the economy and keeping communities well connected. The Association arguing that a refreshing focus on regional road safety outcomes and upgrades are a major win for the state.

The NSW Government’s 22-23 Budget’s record investment in infrastructure, representing an increase of \$4.2 billion on last year’s budget, will see \$39.8 billion dedicated entirely to public transport and road projects and maintenance.

The new budget, announced by Treasurer Matt Kean, unveiled several significant commitments including:

- \$880 million to improve road safety, with significant investment through the NSW Road Safety Plan 2026 targeting high risk areas with a regional focus.
- Significant investment in road safety infrastructure projects across New South Wales to continue to reduce the 270 lives lost on NSW roads in 2021.
- An investment from the Transport and Infrastructure Cluster investment of \$6.2 billion (\$1.3 billion recurrent expenses and \$4.9 billion capital expenditure) for infrastructure projects, including road upgrades.

AfPA has praised the Government’s broad focus on improving road infrastructure and acknowledged the significant capital investment. AfPA has also commended the dual focus of the state budget, which not only announces sizable road investment pipelines but also acknowledges the health and safety of road users as a key investment priority.

While some major infrastructure projects have been delayed, this will provide industry time to address skills shortages and adjust to rising costs to ensure the government’s ambitious infrastructure pipeline can be delivered for NSW.

Carlos Rial, CEO of AfPA said:

“It is fantastic to see that AfPA and its members’ messages are getting through. The Government is to be commended on its recognition of the state’s road infrastructure as the key to connecting commerce and enabling economic prosperity.

“The Government’s renewed focus on reducing fatalities, beyond already falling numbers year on year, and improving road safety measures is always a welcome commitment. However, we would also like to implore the NSW Government to match this commitment in respect to the state’s critical road workers, who risk their lives to deliver these infrastructure outcomes for motorists.

“AfPA and its members in NSW stand ready to deliver on these commitments and ensure that the *arteries of the nation* remain healthy and well-functioning to benefit all NSW communities.”



## About AfPA

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) is the peak body for the multi-billion-dollar flexible pavement industry in Australia. For over 50 years, AfPA has represented the flexible pavement industry to lead safety, sustainability, innovation, knowledge, and collaboration outcomes unified voice on the advancement of flexible pavement technology for the benefit of all road users.