



Australian Flexible Pavement Association media release

Skills and Jobs Australia Delivers Signs of Relief for Flexible Pavement Industry

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that it will establish a new statutory body, Jobs and Skills Australia (JAS), tasked with providing independent advice on the nation's workforce skills and training needs.

A successor to the National Skills Commission, JAS will aim to expand its advisory across areas including, workforce planning, state and territory government collaboration, unions, industry, and education providers.

AfPA has praised the initiative as a much-needed measure to identify and address critical skills shortages, which have stunted economic recovery and threatened proposed infrastructure pipelines.

AfPA State Executive Director, Knowledge and Partnerships, Tanja Conners, said:

"AfPA and its members feel very strongly that we face a major challenge to ensure that we have enough workers to meet demand for crucial infrastructure developments. For AfPA, it is crucial that we not only ensure that we meet demand with sufficient workers, but that we are ensuring emerging workers have the skills and knowledge necessary to deliver more innovative and sustainable infrastructure in the future.

"We are excited to see the establishment of a body who will be able to identify worker and knowledge shortfalls before they become a crisis. AfPA and its members remain committed to ensure that workers are highly qualified and continuously upskilling. We look forward to working with the new body to ensure that Australia's flexible pavement industry continues to deliver for the nation.

"AfPA works to provide the highest level of skills and training, including our Industry Skills Card and Be Bitumen Safe induction course, a demonstration of our commitment to ensure that tomorrow's skilled workers are well equipped to meet the nation's evolving demands safely."

Minister for skills and training, The Hon Brendan O'Connor, said:

"Establishing an interim Jobs and Skills Australia Director will enable its critical work to commence quickly, while extensive consultation on the ongoing functions and structure of JSA occurs."

"JSA will build on the work started by the National Skills Commission, but with a much broader remit to address issues in the skills and training sector, while forging closer partnerships with key stakeholders. It will also play an active role in workforce planning to look at future trends."