



## 2022-23 Federal Budget Unveiled

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) has recognised the arrival of the Federal Government's 22-23 Budget, which commits to a more responsible and sustainable approach to infrastructure investment.

The arrival of last night's budget saw the Federal Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, seek to deliver a budget which reduced overall spending whilst simultaneously delivering positive infrastructure outcomes in the wake of key industry challenges, including: Skills shortages, rising costs of materials and unsustainable contracts.

Some of the key announcements, relevant for the flexible pavement industry, included:

- Government providing \$8.1 billion to deliver on key infrastructure projects, part of the more than \$120 billion pipeline of investment in transport infrastructure over the next 10 years.
- An additional \$250.0 million will be provided to expand the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.
- The Road Safety Program will be extended by a further 2 years, with an additional \$80.0 million provided for the Heavy Vehicle Rest Areas Program.
- The Government will invest up to \$200 million per year on disaster prevention and resilience through the Disaster Ready Fund.

AfPA have praised the budget's equal measure approach to balancing reasonable infrastructure investment, practical efforts to improve pipelines of skilled workers and a more sustainable and equitable construction industry.

Carlos Rial, AfPA CEO, said:

"As the nation continues to battle ongoing floods, AfPA looks forward to working alongside Government at all levels, particularly State and Federal Road Authorities, to share leading industry road maintenance expertise and technology that will help ensure our nation's roads are more resilient, future-proof and sustainable than ever.

"We welcome the budgets renewed focus on regional development, female equity and increased national sustainability. AfPA has consistently advocated for more direct and practical pipelines of maintenance and improved industry conditions within our government submissions. We are pleased to see the issues which impact our members most are front of mind for Government."