



## AfPA Welcomes NSW Government Flood Response, Calls for Resilience and Reinforcement Beyond 'Repair and Rebuild'

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) has welcomed urgent action by the NSW Government to deploy road workers to begin rapid repair and rebuild work on the state's massively flood-affected road network.

The action will see two hundred extra workers deployed across the State's west to begin extensive rebuild work, including pothole repairs, bridge inspections and heavy patching to keep essential goods and services supplied and road users safe.

AfPA has praised the government's nimble and appropriate response to the unprecedented infrastructural damage, however, has also called for a third 'R' to be added to the State's 'Repair and Rebuild' approach, 'Resilience'. An essential addition, the association has stated, to keeping roads future proofed and more resilient to future weather events through ongoing maintenance.

AfPA's CEO, Carlos Rial, said:

"We are pleased to see the Government's appropriate and proportionate responses to getting the State's roads back to functionality. We would like to see that we ensure that the lessons of this year's flooding-events and their effect on our critical infrastructure is learned, and that we do away with a 'band-aid fix' approach to our roads. We encourage the Government to ramp up overall maintenance of the road network to address the backlog and ensure our roads are resilient and future-proofed to future flooding events.

"Our industry and our members stand ready to step up to the task and ensure that our Western communities remain safe and connected to essential services. We know that as an industry we will be able to safely deliver the high-quality repairs and upgrades necessary in the wake of these floods."

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, Paul Toole, said:

"These extra road crews are working with those already on the ground across the west - shovelling cold mix for pothole repairs, heavy patching, extensive rebuilding of some sections, bridge inspections and drainage clearing.

"The majority of the work is taking place in the Forbes, Orange, Dubbo, Parkes, Cowra, Cabonne, Bathurst and Blayney LGAs – with priority given to those areas of the road network most impacted and in need of urgent repairs and rebuilding work."