



**AFPA**  
AUSTRALIAN FLEXIBLE PAVEMENT ASSOCIATION

## **ALL ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN FLEXIBLE PAVEMENT INDUSTRY**

The industry that maintains the nation's most critical asset, its roads.

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# ABOUT AfPA

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) is the peak body for the multi-billion-dollar flexible pavement industry in Australia. We actively work to promote policies and reforms that put the interests and safety of our members and the wider Australian public first.

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.

Our membership brings together a unique and diverse collective of industry, all state road authorities and a number of Councils from across Australia. AfPA represent our members and act as a source of technical and reference information for both industry and governments nationally.



## ROADS, AUSTRALIAS MOST VALUABLE ASSET

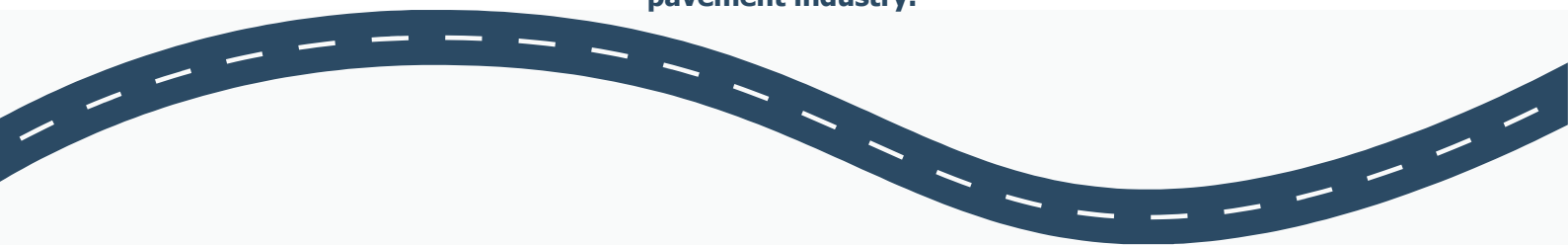
Australia’s roads have never been more critical to the country’s strategic and economic success. Throughout unpredictable and catastrophic natural weather events and the recent pandemic, Australia’s critical road network has proven to be one of its hardest working assets, keeping communities and businesses connected and safe.

Roads are the lifeline for connectivity across the country – they are critical to connecting communities and supporting Australian supply chains and freight. Australia’s road sector contributes \$236 billion to the economy annually, and employs 630 thousand workers. Well maintained roads are essential to ensuring the safety of our citizens, the resilience of our communities and our local and global economic edge. Australia’s total road length comprises of over 877,000 kilometres.

The value of roads has most recently been highlighted by flooding events across Queensland and Northern NSW, during this period Australia’s roads protected lives by aiding emergency services and supported the economy connecting our producers with markets at home and abroad.

During the recent pandemic, roads also facilitated e-commerce and food delivery, and brought families and loved ones together when restrictions eased. The 2021 State of the Assets report estimates that of all local roads, which make up 77% of Australia’s total road length, 8% of sealed roads and 14% of unsealed roads are in poor condition, function and capacity and close to reaching the end of their useful life. With a total replacement cost of \$204bn these figures highlight the critical need for healthy, sustainable pipelines of maintenance across the nation.

**For these reasons, there has never been a better time to get involved with the flexible pavement industry.**





# WHAT IS THE FLEXIBLE PAVEMENT INDUSTRY?

The Australian flexible pavement industry is a multi-billion-dollar industry at the forefront of critical road infrastructure projects across Australia, which underpin the nation's economic growth. The industry is comprised of both large infrastructure multinationals as well as local Australian small to medium businesses.

The flexible pavement industry is directly involved in the delivery of vital road maintaining infrastructure projects across metropolitan and rural Australia. However, flexible pavement doesn't just mean roads, the industry provides the critical infrastructure Australia relies on, including airport runways, ports, busways, railway access tracks, car parks and much more.

## INNOVATION



The flexible pavement industry is constantly innovating, using the latest technologies and scientific methods to build and maintain sustainable infrastructure. Drivers depend on road upgrades to ensure they can stay connected safely and efficiently.

The life-saving, economically crucial role of road maintenance and our industry demands the highest level of innovation and technological adaptation. This industry is built on technological breakthroughs and will depend on innovation for better roads in the future.

## SUSTAINABILITY



The flexible pavement industry is committed to ensuring more sustainable, environmentally friendly roads.

Given that safe, reliable roads depend on routine upgrades and maintenance - the need to adopt circular operations is crucial in our sector. We remain committed as an industry to deliver strong outcomes for the Australian community and our natural environment.

## FUTURE FOCUSSED



Roads keep our nation connected, they are what keeps the nation running and keep us connected to what matters most.

The industry remains committed to future-proofing the nation's critical roadways and ensuring Australia keeps pace with the rapid developments occurring in our sector across the globe. Our industry believes in continuous improvement and innovation wherever possible.

# Considering a career in flexible pavement?

Our industry is undergoing significant growth, with \$17.9 billion dollars committed to funding public infrastructure projects including roads announced in the 2022 federal budget. With millions of kilometres of roads being built and repaired by Australians, careers within the asphalt industry offer job security and career progression. The Australian asphalt industry has a variety of career opportunities available, whether you have a degree or not which are both financially and socially rewarding.

With some of the highest entry level wages, and competitive on-going remuneration packages, the industry is a financially rewarding career path. Asphalt is at the forefront of sustainability in Australia, being the most recycled product nationally, and key industry partners continuing to innovate to increase sustainable roads.

Our industry should be considered by anyone looking to kickstart their career or looking to impact Australia's future.



## Opportunities

Our industry impacts all aspects of society and has many key stakeholders, from the truck and transport operators moving goods across the country to the chemical and material scientists who construct the compounds and recipes to develop the most durable roads across Australia.

Flexible Pavement is continually providing economic growth to Australia supporting industries such as raw material suppliers, sales and marketing professionals, civil engineers that design the roads and thousands of other industries.



**RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIERS**



**ASPHALT MIX PRODUCERS**



**TRUCK DRIVERS**



**CIVIL & GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERS**



**CHEMISTS & MATERIALS SCIENTISTS**



**SALES & MARKETING**



**THOUSANDS OF OTHERS**

# ON ASPHALT

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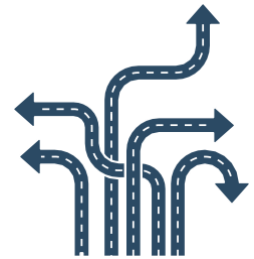


## SUSTAINABILITY

Asphalt is 100 percent reusable and is the most recycled product on earth (Federal Highway Administration). Asphalt also produces far less waste and carbon emissions than alternative surfacing methods.

## VERSATILITY

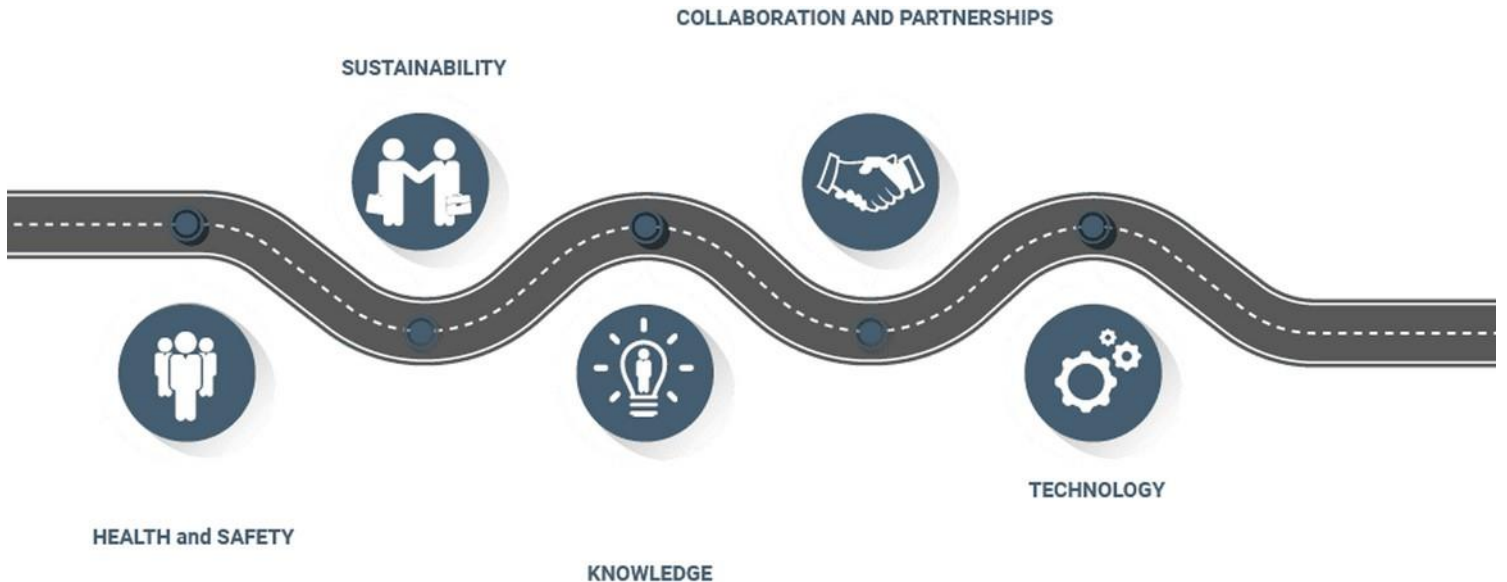
Asphalt has many applications and purposes and plays a major role in facilitating daily life for all Australian's. From roadways to runways, carparks and trains lines, Asphalt keeps the nation and it's economy moving.



## ECONOMIC EDGE

Asphalt roads never need to be entirely replaced, they are one of the most reliable and cost-effective investments possible. Asphalt is also low cost and highly reliable.

# AfPA PRIORITIES

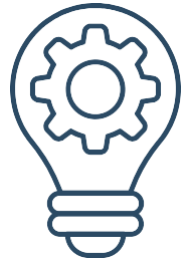


# WHY AfPA?

## INNOVATION AND MAINTENANCE:

AfPA maintains a resolve to incorporate technological, practical and educational innovations wherever possible in its activities and guidance of the industry and members. As an industry directly involved in the safety of Australian motorists and road workers, the need for innovation is ever-present and crucial to better roads. AfPA upholds a continual improvement culture across industry and government in engineering and construction practice, safety and sustainability. AfPA implores authoritative bodies to adopt international benchmarking to ensure Australia remains at the forefront of well-working roads.

AfPA is committed to encouraging long-term coordinated plans to address declining network conditions and level of road service. AfPA supports long-term funding commitments and better coordination of investment in the road network, to ensure value for money and the best outcomes for the public. Australia's roads are crucially important. With the rapidly increasing frequency of extreme weather events, the need for well-maintained, resilient roads has never been more clear.



## SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULARITY:

AfPA promotes sustainability on three fronts, our people, the environment, and the economy. AfPA seeks to fulfil the knowledge requirements for our industry in developing skills that underpin the new jobs being created to support Australia's economic recovery and the inclusion and growth of diversity. AfPA advocates for continual improvement in environmental sustainability that works towards circular economy practices. This includes our industry doing its part to address the use of renewable materials to control waste and also advocating for the sustainable funding of Australia's most valuable asset – our roads. We support preserving and protecting the environment and believe that well-maintained road networks can be delivered sustainably and be part of a circular economy.



## SAFETY:

AfPA promotes a culture of continuous improvement in health and safety standards across our industry. One of the highest risks for our industry is frontline workers being exposed to traffic. Road workers put themselves at risk to deliver the critical infrastructure Australian drivers need. Unfortunately, it is some of these same drivers who are putting these workers at risk. AfPA advocates for the utilisation of existing road safety technology to reduce speeds and keep workers safe.

Beyond road workers, safety incidents on roads are major concern for AfPA, taking an unacceptable number of lives each year – despite being a key focus for government. A key objective for AfPA and our members is to enable and support industry to continuously improve the health and safety of our people and communities we serve.



## EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY:

AfPA works to enhance and upgrade the training, skills and resources of our members and the industry more generally. AfPA provides safety training courses and works to provide educational resources which promote best practice. We hold a firm commitment to actively trial and adopt innovative technology solutions that enhance safety of road workers and the public. Critically, we keep the mental and physical wellbeing of the industry as a top priority, providing resources and education to ensure our industry works efficiently and safely. AfPA also provides training, tech talks and master classes with leading national and international experts

AfPA works with industry to ensure an understanding of bitumen and how to work safely with it. AfPA supports members to implement management processes which address any long-term worker related health risks arising from air pollution and particulates (produced at the point of manufacture and through the supply chain). AfPA has developed a suite of training resources targeting worker safety, capability and capacity but also offer vocational qualifications which are transferable across the whole industry.

