



Transport for NSW Latest Adopter of AfPA Be Bitumen Safe Training

Monday 8th May 2023

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) has welcomed Transport for NSW's (TfNSW) commencement of Be Bitumen Safe training, a core part of AfPA's Flexible Pavement Industry Card, set to ensure more sustainable and reliably built roads throughout the state.

TfNSW's regional Network and Assets team is the latest adopter of the Be Bitumen Safe training, designed to provide instruction on safety for all personnel who work within 15 meters of hot bituminous materials and asphalt at any time, equipping road workers with the skills needed to excel in the industry and complete urgent roadworks and maintenance safely.

Matt Fuller, Deputy Secretary for the Regional and Outer Metropolitan division of TfNSW, said: "The safety of our people and the communities we serve across New South Wales is our highest priority. We are committed to safe work practices for our people and our contractors as part of providing a safe and reliable transport system that connects NSW."

The Executive Director of the Network and Assets team, Tom Grosskopf, elaborated: "We're proud to be working directly with industry to improve workforce safety. Our teams deliver an extensive program of roadworks, sometimes under challenging environmental circumstances, and we believe the Be Bitumen Safe training will be instrumental in reinforcing safe work practices at all times".

AfPA has expressed excitement over TfNSW's implementation and called for national adoption of the training to ensure cohesive and regulated safety standards for the entire industry. The call comes as industry scrambles to ensure skilled workers are capable of meeting growing demand, whilst the nation looks to address the \$3.8 billion in damage reported by 537 councils in 2022.

Tanja Conners, Executive Director for Knowledge and Partnerships at AfPA, said: "This is an extremely positive step forward for Transport for NSW and for the industry more broadly, one which we hope will lead to training standardisation across our workforce. It has been a great experience to work alongside Transport for NSW to facilitate the adoption and commencement of the Be Bitumen Safe card.

"It is our hope that we can work to establish a baseline level of safety and training which will become standardised across the country, keeping workers and drivers safe. As the nation continues to spend increasingly significant amounts on its infrastructure pipelines, the safety standards for those who will deliver cannot be overlooked."