



AfPA Joins Calls for National Re-think on Road Maintenance Funding

13 November 2023

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) has welcomed findings from the Grattan Institute which have revealed that a further \$1 Billion should be spent annually on maintaining Australia's road infrastructure to keep motorists safe.

The Grattan Institute has called for the increase of federal funding to councils by \$600 million per year to assist in the maintenance of critical roads, as well as increasing funding for the Government's Roads to Recovery program by \$400 million per year.

AfPA has applauded the Institute's recognition of the challenge councils face in raising funds to ensure optimal road condition and its recognition that this issue disproportionately affects rural and remote communities. Councils across Australia are currently responsible for managing approximately 680,000km of roads whilst only receiving 4% of taxation funds.

The research details the poor condition of Australia's road infrastructure and highlights the ongoing disparity in spending between densely populated city centres and those remote and rural communities that need road maintenance funding most.

The urgent need to rethink how road maintenance is approached in Australia is exacerbated by the Australian Local Government Association's latest asset report, which revealed that 8% of sealed roads and 14% of unsealed roads in Australia were in poor condition, function and capacity.

AfPA has reiterated its calls for government to adopt a 'fix-it-first' approach to road maintenance, citing the cost savings associated with maintenance over complete repair or new developments and the massive safety benefits offered by well-maintained roads.

Carlos Rial, AfPA's Chief Executive Officer, said:

"AfPA and its members are delighted to see research in our sector reaffirm the type of support we have long called for. To prevent massive, costly rebuilds we must take a proactive stance toward our roads. This will not only prevent road incidents but will also ensure our roads remain resilient to natural accumulative degradation.

"We remain committed to working alongside all levels of the Australian government to help reshape the way that we as a nation address critical maintenance backlogs and ensure that our roads, especially those that keep our rural and remote communities connected, are keeping motorists safe."

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