



## AfPA Applauds its Member's Involvement in a New Sustainable Initiative Set in the use of recycled material (coffee cups) to build new roads

**Thursday, 21 December 2023**

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) is thrilled to announce its member's involvement in an Australian first sustainable road construction initiative.

AfPA members Avijohn Contracting and State Asphalts NSW, in collaboration with Landcom are trialling the use of recycled material (coffee cups) to build new roads at its North Wilton Panorama. This trial is set to transform the landscape of road infrastructure by introducing environmentally conscious practices that prioritise recycling and reducing the carbon footprint.

The construction industry currently accounts for up to 10% of Australia's total emissions. Recognising the need to shift towards more sustainable outcomes, AfPA applauds Landcom and its industry partners for their dedication and hard work, to bring this project to a reality. The Fairway Drive trial at North Wilton is a significant step towards achieving this goal, as it gathers crucial data on the durability of the PAK-PAVE mix and paves the way for future road construction practices that are more sustainable, longer lasting and more environmentally friendly.

Landcom is currently trialling the use of recycled material (coffee cups) to build new roads at its North Wilton project. The project will see more than 126,000 paper cups such as coffee cups recycled to produce 630 metres of asphalt paved during the trial. If the trial is successful, Landcom will continue to roll out the use of recycled materials in its roads, leading to greener and more sustainable developments in NSW.

Additionally, this marks the second project in which the PAK-PAVE mix has been employed in New South Wales, following a successful trial in Penrith. Notably, it is also the first time a NSW Government agency has trialled this mix.

Incorporating recycled materials is a key aspect of the Fairway Drive trial at North Wilton. Approximately 3650 car tyres have also been or will be recycled in the asphalt for the other roads in the Stage 1 civil works at North Wilton, along with 280 tonnes of recycled asphalt pavement. The utilisation of crumb rubber mix not only provides a solution for End-of-Life tyres but also enhances the performance of the asphalt, as industry field research has shown significant improvements in durability.

By trialling the PAK-PAVE mix at North Wilton, valuable data on its durability will be gathered, to hopefully halve the pavement thickness in similar roads in the future. This reduction in thickness will significantly contribute to further reducing the environmental footprint of NSW roads.

AfPA is proud to support this groundbreaking trial and applauds our members Avijohn Contracting and State Asphalts NSW as well as Landcom for this project. It's great to see our members leading the way in initiatives that pave the way for innovation in the road construction industry, particularly in sustainability. AfPA looks forward to the positive impact it will have on the future of road infrastructure in New South Wales, and if successful, looks forward to this initiative being broadened to include other councils, states and territories.

As we stand on the cusp of a more sustainable era in road construction, the Fairway Drive trial exemplifies the dedication of industry to finding practical solutions to the challenges facing our environment. By incorporating recycled materials like coffee cups, car tyres, and recycled asphalt pavement, we are not only redefining the way roads are built but also actively addressing the environmental impact of construction activities.

**ENDS**