



## AfPA Welcomes Australian Road Safety Foundation's National Campaign, Fatality Free Friday

**Friday 03<sup>rd</sup> May 2024**

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) extends its support for the Australian Road Safety Foundation's (ARSF) national campaign, Fatality Free Friday, which will launch on Friday, May 3. This campaign serves as a crucial reminder of the importance of road safety.

The ARSF campaign will run throughout the month of May, culminating in a National Day of Action on May 31. AfPA echoes the ARSF's stance that Fatality Free Friday is not just a target for a single day but a demonstration that road safety can be achieved every day.

As the road toll in Australia continues to rise, with 1,286 fatalities recorded in the year to March, AfPA emphasises that road safety is a shared responsibility. We also welcome the Albanese Government's commitment to working with all levels of government to reduce the road toll and strive towards Vision Zero.

AfPA calls for the prioritisation of road safety under the Government's Infrastructure Investment Program, which will allocate over \$90 billion to road and rail projects over the next decade. This significant investment is a milestone in addressing the infrastructure concerns of our nation's regions.

Additionally, we applaud the increased funding for local roads, including an extra \$250 million for the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, as well as the Roads to Recovery funding, which will double to \$1 billion annually.

Federal funding channelled through local governments plays a crucial role in mitigating the pressing issue of road fatalities in Australia. This funding is essential for improving road infrastructure, implementing vital safety measures, and strengthening enforcement efforts through local law enforcement agencies.

Recent floodings in 2022 and 2023 have caused extensive damage to roads controlled by 537 councils, amounting to over \$3.8 billion. This damage disproportionately affects regional and remote communities, which rely on roads as



a vital lifeline for healthcare, supplies, and more. As such, we emphasise the strategic importance of maintaining and upgrading road infrastructure in these areas to prevent incidents and fatalities.

Tony Aloisio, CEO of AfPA in support of the Fatality Free Friday campaign, said:

“We are all aware of the unacceptable number of lives lost each year on our roads, and the impacts they have on families and communities. AfPA's primary request is for a federal allocation to local governments, supporting a long-term, coordinated plan to address the deteriorating condition and service levels of our roads in both the urban and most importantly rural and regional areas.”

“We remain committed to collaborating with all levels of the Australian government to reshape our approach to road safety as a nation, and we anticipate positive changes resulting from this campaign.”