



AfPA Welcomes Circular Economy Advisory Group's Focus on Road Sustainability

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The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) is pleased to welcome findings and recommendations from the Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group's latest interim report, which has acknowledged roads as a crucial component of Australia's transition to a circular economy.

Established by the Australian government in February 2023 and spearheaded by the Minister for Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek, the advisory group aims to guide the government on the transition to a more circular economy, including a focus on the built environment and road transport network.

The Group has produced an interim report containing preliminary advice on various crucial topics, including investment settings, net zero, the built environment, and the design and consumption of products.

AfPA is delighted to find that road sustainability has been given due attention in the advisory group's advice. The report emphasises the importance of avoiding unnecessary demolition of buildings and infrastructure, including roads, instead prioritising reuse and refurbishment. Additionally, the report recognises the potential of recycled materials in road infrastructure, stating that recycled materials could replace 27% of virgin materials in the sector.

This is a significant step towards reducing waste and promoting sustainability, especially considering that construction waste accounts for 40% of landfills.

One of AfPA's key priorities is that measures are taken under state government regulations to classify materials like Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) as reusable rather than as waste. While the sustainability benefits and use of RAP is at the forefront of AfPA's agenda, the report states that there may be barriers and disincentives to its widespread adoption.

AfPA is looking forward to working with the Government to expand its findings and recommendations on circularity to include more road sustainability initiatives, and this includes incorporating road and infrastructure specific strategies in Recommendations 10 to 19, which advises on best sustainable practices on the built environment, and the design and consumption of products.



AfPA's CEO, Tony Aloisio, supported the progress made:

"Road sustainability is a critical aspect of the circular economy, and we are pleased to see it being prioritised by the Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group. By incorporating reused and recycled materials and promoting maintenance measures, we can significantly reduce waste and create more sustainable road infrastructure.

We look forward to collaborating closely with the Advisory Group to provide recommendations and expertise to support the transition of the road and broader construction industries in a manner that benefits communities and keeps sustainability at its core."