



AfPA Welcomes the 2024-25 Federal Budget's Increased Funding for Roads and Infrastructure

Wednesday, 15 May 2024

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) has welcomed the substantive increase in roads and infrastructure spending addressed in the 2024-25 Federal Budget, delivered by Treasurer Jim Chalmers on behalf of the Federal Government.

AfPA stands behind the Budget's measures to fortify the nation's infrastructure network to meet the increasing demands of our communities and cities. We commend the increase in federal funding through local governments to address pressing road repairs and maintenance projects, ensuring the vitality of our transportation arteries.

AfPA has praised the Government's focus on skills and worker shortages, particularly the \$88.8 million investment to deliver 20,000 new fee-free TAFE places, including pre-apprenticeships in courses relevant to the construction sector.

Of particular note is the substantial boost in funding for key programs such as the Roads to Recovery Program, which sees its allocation rise from \$500 million to \$1 billion annually until 2028. Additionally, we welcome funding for the Black Spot Program, now increased from \$110 million to \$150 million per year.

AfPA also welcomes the allocation of \$1 billion to states and territories for the development of new housing, recognising the pivotal role of adequate infrastructure, including roads, in facilitating essential services and connectivity. This while maintaining focus on ensuring the deliverability of the over \$120 billion, ten-year infrastructure investment pipeline.

While precise figures for regional and rural road spending remain unspecified, AfPA urges prioritising federal funding through local governments to address the heightened road safety risks in regional and rural communities.

AfPA applauds the Government's investment in a suite of road safety programs, including the Roads to Recovery Program, Black Spot Program, and the newly established Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program. The infusion of \$259.4 million into the Roads to Recovery Program over the next four years will address critical infrastructure needs, while \$166.8 million allocated to the Black Spots Program will target high-risk areas prone to serious crashes.

AfPA sees the 2024-25 Federal Budget as a promising step towards enhancing our nation's roads and transportation networks. The substantial increase in infrastructure and road funding nationwide, coupled with a renewed focus on road safety, signals the Government's commitment to addressing both national and local priorities.

As an association representing the flexible pavement and wider roadworker industry, AfPA stands ready to collaborate with the Government and industry stakeholders to ensure these resources are effectively utilised and deliver long-term benefits for our nation's infrastructure, ensuring the safety and efficiency of our roads for all Australians.

To read the 2024-25 Federal Budget report, refer here: <https://budget.gov.au/>