



AfPA Hosts 2024 NSW Safety Forum to Prioritise Road Worker and Community Safety

On 6 June, the Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) proudly hosted the 2024 NSW Safety Forum. The Forum gathered over 100 industry leaders to address crucial safety concerns within the flexible pavement maintenance, road construction and broader construction sector.

Recognising the pressing need for cross-industry collaboration, the Forum aimed to foster an exchange of insights and ideas among stakeholders. Key issues, such as the separation of worksites, workers, and public traffic, as well as people and plants, were central to discussions. Such priority areas align closely with AfPA's National Health and Safety Committee Safety Priorities Strategy and Actions.

Lise Sperling, AfPA's NSW and ACT State Executive Director and Head of Federal Advocacy and Government Relations, addressed the Forum, reaffirming AfPA's commitment to advancing road worksite safety. She emphasised the industry's collective responsibility to address safety challenges, noting that collective resolve and whole industry commitment are necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of our people and the community.

Ms. Sperling highlighted the importance of open collaboration, stressing that safety insights should be shared transparently across the industry. She stated, "There is no IP in safety. Sharing leading practices among members should not be viewed as a commercial advantage but rather as a means to enhance safety standards for all – that everyone is entitled to get home safely."

The Forum was framed around three key principles: transparency, ownership, and action. Participants engaged in discussions that challenged current practices and standards while openly sharing insights and experiences.

Looking ahead, Ms Sperling reaffirmed the need for continued collaboration and action, urging industry and government to embrace transparency in addressing safety issues with all stakeholders.

"The Forum serves as a stark reminder that while our intentions may be noble, progress is often hindered by working in isolation. By embracing collaboration and transparency, we can collectively address safety issues and eliminate hurdles."

The Forum served as a call-to-action for industry and government alike, with interactive sessions focusing on NSW-specific challenges and opportunities. It also provided a platform to explore emerging practices and technologies with the potential for national expansion in the future.

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