



AfPA Leads Industry Event on Low Carbon Bitumen Solutions in Brisbane

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) hosted an event aimed at advancing sustainable infrastructure with its industry briefing on low-carbon bitumen solutions, held on Friday, June 7, 2024, in Brisbane.

With growing concerns about climate change, the construction sector faces increasing pressure to adopt more sustainable practices. Recognising this movement's importance, AfPA organised the industry briefing to foster dialogue and collaboration towards achieving industry-wide decarbonisation goals.

Attended by over 200 industry professionals, the event saw key stakeholders from the road construction sector participating, sharing insights and expertise on sustainable pavement solutions. Discussions revolved around identifying alternative materials and methods to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions associated with road construction and maintenance.

Australia's construction sector generates 30 to 50 million tonnes of carbon annually, with construction materials contributing 5-10 per cent of the nation's total emissions. AfPA centred its discussions on its sustainability roadmap, with low-emission bitumen as the primary focus to advance the road sector's net-zero initiatives.

While traditional bitumen has been the primary material for road construction, its high carbon footprint presents environmental challenges. Attendees explored innovative approaches to tackle this issue, including the development of low-carbon binders and renewable alternatives.

The event, sponsored by SAMI Bitumen and VIVA, with support from the TMR Department of Transport and Main Roads QLD, provided a unique platform to discuss carbon reduction strategies using new-generation binders. Guest speakers included industry experts such as Stephen J Mallows from the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Kanjana Yindee from SAMI, Nigel Preston from VIVA, Taylour Samuel from Road Science, and Graham Wilson from Puma.

Anna D'Angelo, AfPA Executive Director of Technology and Leadership, who spearheaded the event, emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts in driving sustainable construction practices.

"Our aim with this event was to explore the benefits of decarbonisation and acknowledge the collaborative efforts of TMR and AfPA, along with all participants, in supporting sustainable flexible pavement construction. Moving forward, our priority is to ensure ongoing conversations convert to concerted actions to promote nationally unified sustainable best practices in road material usage."

Tony Aloisio, AfPA Interim CEO, said, "Bringing together industry stakeholders to discuss sustainability and circularity in flexible pavement is crucial for our sector's future growth and innovation. We envision a future where roads are synonymous with sustainability and advocate for a unified approach that requires collaboration between industry and government to achieve this vision."

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