



## Australian Flexible Pavement Association Represents Australia on the World Stage

09 July 2024

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) has represented the industry on the world stage at a congress organised jointly by the European Asphalt Pavement Association (EAPA) and Eurobitume (European Association for Bitumen) in Budapest.

The congress saw approximately 750 participants from more than 50 countries around the world attend to hear and share knowledge about the latest cutting-edge industry research, innovative technical developments, new applications and sustainability challenges facing the bitumen and asphalt sector.

The three central themes of the congress were resilience, sustainability and innovation, all of which are shared by AfPA within its strategic priorities.

- **Resilience:** refers to the ever-growing expectations related to product life cycles in parallel with the changing demands of road networks and the importance of demonstrating the resilience of bitumen and asphalt continues to increase.
- **Sustainability:** refers to the evolving need for sustainable products and methods as well as the need for a coherent approach to understanding the benefits and solutions offered by circular bitumen and asphalt.
- **Innovation:** refers to a focus on new technologies including digitalisation, performance or mobility enhancements and new solutions that are key to the development of the industry.

An Australian delegation from bitumen suppliers to contractors attended the congress, with AfPA's own Anna D'Angelo, the Executive Director of Technology and Leadership, hailing the congress a massive step for global knowledge sharing and cohesive industry improvement.

Anna D'Angelo, said:

“The attendance to the E&E congress provided valuable insights and opportunities to access and exchange knowledge about technical and sustainability projects. Several sessions directly aligned with Australian current areas of interest such as low carbon pavements, lower temperature asphalt and binder specifications.”

In addition, Anna attended the meeting organised by the Global Asphalt Pavement Association (GAPA) and in her role as Vice President of the International Federation of Bitumen Emulsion (IBEF) chaired the IBEF spring webinar. The meeting focussed on core areas of focus for AfPA, including international knowledge sharing, sustainability challenges and standards, and also encouraging more female participation in the sector.

AfPA's CEO, Tony Aloisio, praised the initiative of the Australian delegation, stating: “We know that the issues faced by the flexible pavements industry in Australia are not entirely unique. AfPA has always looked for opportunities to share experience and swap knowledge with industry professionals around the world, this is part of our commitment to ongoing improvement. We are delighted by the success of these visits and will continue to look for opportunities to share Australian knowledge and world class practise.”

**ENDS**