



## ACT Government Latest Adopter of AfPA Be Bitumen Safe Training

**Monday 24th April 2023**

The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) has expressed its support for the ACT Government's adoption of the Be Bitumen Safe training program, a fundamental element of AfPA's Flexible Pavement Industry Card, which aims to enhance the construction of sustainable and dependable roads across the state.

The ACT Government joins a rapidly expanding list of institutions adopting the Be Bitumen Safe training program, designed to provide safety instruction and training for all personnel who work within 15 meters of hot bituminous materials and asphalt at any time. The training will equip road workers with the skills necessary to excel in the industry and complete urgent roadworks safely.

AfPA has expressed enthusiasm over the implementation of the training program by the Government and has urged the adoption of the program nationwide to ensure uniform and regulated safety standards throughout the industry. The industry has since 2019, faced a surge in demand for projects with limited skilled and trained workers to fulfil infrastructure pipelines.

The adoption of the Be Bitumen Safe training follows the ACT Government's announcement, made last year, that it would increase road maintenance funding to \$153 million over the next four years.

Tanja Conners, Executive Director for Knowledge and Partnerships at AfPA, said:

“The collaboration between the ACT Government and AfPA to introduce the Be Bitumen Safe training is a positive step towards achieving uniform standards for the workforce. We are pleased to have had the opportunity to work alongside the Government to implement this initiative, and we anticipate that it will serve as a starting point for improved worker and driver safety.

“Given the substantial investment being made in the Government's infrastructure, it's essential to establish a minimum level of safety to safeguard those who will be involved in the delivery process. The program will equip workers with the expertise to construct long-lasting roadways and ensures we recognise the significance of implementing safety protocols to protect the often-overlooked workers, who play a vital role in ensuring our safety when we travel.”