

ROADS REVIEW

THIS MONTH, WE ASKED THE INDUSTRY'S DECISION-MAKERS, 'WHAT FILLS YOU WITH OPTIMISM MOVING INTO 2026?'



DAVID LIGHTFOOT, QLD DELIVERY COORDINATOR – ROADAID

What gives me optimism heading into 2026 is the change in our industry culture. There is a growing appreciation for the people who keep our infrastructure running, and more emphasis on building strong, capable teams. I am encouraged to see real conversations about career development, wellbeing, and creating workplaces where everyone feels valued. At RoadAid, we have a team that takes pride in what they do and genuinely care about each other's safety and success. That sense of unity and purpose across the industry gives me confidence that we are moving in the right direction.

Image: RoadAid



MATTHEW BERENI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

What fills me with optimism moving into 2026 is the momentum across our industry. We're seeing collaboration at unprecedented levels between government, industry, and technology partners, all focused on improving safety, sustainability, and workforce capability. The shift toward innovation in traffic management, through smart infrastructure, data-driven decision-making, and stronger national standards, means we're not just managing roads, we're shaping safer communities. The energy, passion, and professionalism I see in our members every day make me confident that together we'll keep driving positive change for Australia's road users and workers.

Image: Traffic Management Association of Australia



CADELL TAYE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NATIONAL PRECAST CONCRETE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Moving into 2026, I'm optimistic about the growing recognition of precast as a smarter, safer, and more sustainable way to build. Advances in digital design, automation, and AI are transforming how we plan, produce, and deliver precast elements, improving efficiency and quality while reducing waste. The industry's increasing focus on low-carbon concrete, circular materials, and factory-controlled production aligns perfectly with Australia's sustainability goals. I'm encouraged by stronger collaboration across the supply chain and greater investment in skills and innovation. With these shifts, precast is positioned not just as an alternative construction method, but as a leader in shaping a safer, greener built environment.

Image: National Precast Concrete Association of Australia



KRISHINA SRINIVASAN, PRESIDENT – SRIPATH TECHNOLOGIES

As we move into 2026, I'm filled with optimism about the momentum across our industry. We're seeing unprecedented innovation in asphalt technologies with solutions that enhance performance while also advancing global sustainability goals. At Sripath, this progress inspires us daily. Our product portfolio is expanding, and our collaborations worldwide are driving measurable impact. In the past five years, Sripath Asia-Pac has made great strides in Australia and New Zealand, forming valuable partnerships across the asphalt industry. As we prepare to celebrate Sripath Technologies' 20th anniversary next year, I'm proud of how far we've come and energised by the opportunities ahead to build more high-performing, sustainable roads.

Image: Sripath Technologies



MARK HORROCKS, DIRECTOR MEMBERSHIP, COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT – AUSTRALIAN FLEXIBLE PAVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Starting in this role at AFPA, I've had the chance to meet members from across Australia and every corner of the industry. What's struck me most is how open people are; sharing ideas, challenges, and a genuine drive to improve how we build and maintain roads. There's real energy right now, conversations are shifting from 'why' to 'how' and whether it's safety, sustainability, standards, or skills, the industry is innovating solutions and getting on with it, and AFPA's role is to back that momentum, and I'm excited to play my part.

Image: AFPA

If you or someone at your organisation is an industry leader and would like to be a part of this monthly column in 2026, please get in touch with Editor, Tom O'Keane: tom.okeane@primecreative.com.au