

ROADS REVIEW

THIS MONTH, WE ASKED THE INDUSTRY'S DECISION-MAKERS, 'HOW IS YOUR ORGANISATION IMPROVING AND OPTIMISING WORKPLACE SAFETY?'



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

National Precast's new microcredentials are aimed to improve safety in precast by giving engineers, inspectors, and factory workers structured, up-to-date and practical knowledge of not only precast operations, but also on safety legislation, hazard management, PPE, and Chain of Responsibility requirements. Modules such as Safety and Environmental Management in Precast and Lifting, Handling, Storage and Transport focus on high-risk, high-impact areas that directly affect factory and onsite safety. With a deeper understanding of standards, equipment, and safe operating and handling procedures, participants can identify hazards earlier, prevent quality concerns as well as maintaining compliance. This consistent, practical training strengthens workforce competency and ensures safer, defect-free outcomes across Australia's growing precast and civil infrastructure projects.

Image: National Precast



HENRIETTA JUKES, EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER – SAFETY & SUSTAINABILITY – KOMATSU

Komatsu Oceania is undertaking many programs to continually improve safety in the business. In February this year we were certified to ISO 45001 having prepared and implemented a robust safety management system after extensive consultation and input from all levels of staff in the business. We also implemented a 'Just Culture' program to ensure continuity of reporting and transparency. Komatsu adheres to the principles of Human Operational Performance (HOP), a philosophy for improving safety and productivity by focusing on how human and organisational systems interact, rather than solely on individual performance or blame. With our HOP programs in place, as well as many health initiatives, we are seeing improvement in all areas of safety across the business.

Image: Komatsu



PETER ALI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – MUNICIPAL WORKS AUSTRALIA

Municipal works teams are elevating workplace safety through advanced systems, targeted training, and a culture of joint accountability. Safety is ingrained in routines through digital pre-starts, hazard and near-miss reports, and asset monitoring to reveal risks early. Toolbox talks, ongoing training, and competency assessments keep skills sharp and synchronise teams with updated standards. Onsite, machine-assisted lifting, improved PPE, traffic control technology, and lockout/tag-out protocols limit high-risk exposure. Leaders exemplify safe practices and promote mental health and fatigue prevention. The result is safer, more robust operations where staff are equipped to predict hazards and avert incidents.

Image: Municipal Works Australia



CHRIS COULDREY, DIRECTOR – E.B MANAGEMENT GROUP (ROADAID)

At RoadAid, safety isn't just a requirement, it's part of our culture. We've equipped all company vehicles with defibrillators to strengthen our emergency response, and our safety observers now wear distinctive pink vests, so their role is instantly recognisable on site. These small but meaningful changes help create safer, more responsive, and better-managed work environments across the assets we support.

Image: RoadAid



JILL MCCONAUGHEY, MARKETING SPECIALIST – SRIPATH

Safety is built into everything we do at Sripath. From concept to application, we engineer safer additives that minimise risk. Every additive undergoes rigorous health and safety reviews to ensure that it is safe to handle in the field. Our Health & Safety Policy, reviewed yearly by our global management team, guides every stage of design, development, and manufacturing. Our leadership teams are actively engaged in monitoring, auditing, and investigating our safety protocols to ensure continuous improvement. We publish Safety Data Sheets on all our products on our website. Our innovations are grounded in the priority of protecting people and improving working conditions across the paving industry.

Image: Sripath



RUTH GRAHAM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORT POLICY – TRANSPORT FOR NSW

Roads are workplaces for a variety of workers, from maintenance, construction and emergency crews to bus, tram, taxi and delivery drivers. Making their workplace safer is a key part of a once-in-a-generation review of the NSW Roads Act 1993 currently underway. As we shape this legislation, industry and stakeholder feedback is telling us safety is the highest priority and must be made explicit in the Act. To do this, we are looking to embed safe systems into the Act so the safety of all road users is identified as a primary consideration in this reform.

Image: Transport for NSW

If you or someone at your organisation is an industry leader and would like to be a part of this monthly column in 2025, please get in touch with Editor, Tom O'Keane: tom.okeane@primecreative.com.au