

# ROADS REVIEW

This month, we asked the industry's decision-makers, 'What changes are needed to encourage greater collaboration and innovation across the sector in 2026?'



**RAQUEL RUBALCABA, DEPUTY SECRETARY, INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND ENGINEERING – TRANSPORT FOR NSW**

To encourage greater collaboration and innovation in 2026, the roads sector will need to embrace practical changes alongside cultural leadership. This includes earlier and more genuine industry engagement, commercial models that reward collaboration and innovation rather than the transfer of risk, and clearer pathways to trial new ideas at scale. Leaders must also encourage the creation of safe environments for teams to test, learn and adapt, rather than simply defaulting to established approaches. Where projects create a collaborative and innovative culture, improved safety, productivity and value for money outcomes will follow.

*Image: Transport for NSW*



**TONY ALOISIO, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – APA**

In 2026, greater collaboration and innovation across the sector will depend on a shared commitment to maintaining Australia's valuable public asset – our roads. A target of resealing seven per cent of the network annually provides a practical and achievable starting point. Government and industry must work in genuine partnership to deliver innovative, practicable solutions that protect both network performance and road users. To further strengthen industry safety and capability, APA's first major initiative for 2026 is the launch of Asphalt Essentials, a foundational course designed for empowering informed purchasing and best practice.

*Image: Australian Flexible Pavement Association*



**SARAH BACHMANN, EXECUTIVE ADVISOR – NATIONAL PRECAST CONCRETE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

To boost collaboration and innovation in 2026, we need to lift baseline knowledge across the sector. As precast continues to gain market share amid a challenging infrastructure pipeline, it's crucial that everyone engaging with it – from designers to head contractors – has a working understanding of precast regulatory, operational and technical dimensions. That's exactly what our 10 new micro-credentials deliver. Complete all 10, and they also count as RPL for the new precast units now embedded in the MSM30325 Certificate III in Manufactured Mineral Products, a direct pathway to relevant and recognised skills, and smarter project outcomes.

*Image: National Precast Concrete Association of Australia*

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.KEANE@PRIMECREATIVE.COM.AU](mailto:TOM.KEANE@PRIMECREATIVE.COM.AU)