

AAPA 2017 NSW INDUSTRY LEADER AWARD WINNER



Downer

Relationships creating success

GANA VARENDRAN

Gana is a great ambassador for Downer, AAPA and for the whole bituminous surfacing industry. He is a proactive and relentless lobbyist.

His career began as an R&D Pavement Engineer in 1997 with ExxonMobil where he gained exposure to pavement designs, modelling and asphalt mix designs from first principles. He built his technical knowledge and capability at the national R&D laboratory, designing pavement and products such as asphalt, emulsions, foamed bitumen and spray sealing.

Today, he is General Manager of Downer's NSW & ACT road services business. He and his team work closely with state road authorities and local government in NSW and ACT.

He contributed to modification of the AustRoads Pavement design approach, drawing on his experience of pavement design with asphalt and foamed bitumen laboratory mix. He uses real laboratory data to verify the perpetual pavement concept that supports the industry.

Gana obtained his engineering degree from the University of Sydney and completed an MBA at the University of Melbourne. He is also a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

He is passionate about business improvement and sustainable solutions and shows great leadership in these for his team, AAPA branch and the Strategic Alignment Group with Roads and Maritime Services. He is affiliated with the Sustainability Council, MBA and Safe Work Australia.



Gana's key themes include:

- Near-miss reporting to improve safety
- Warm and cold products that reduce carbon footprint
- Use of foamed bitumen stabilising with asphalt in pavement design
- Improved risk management using warm and cold products
- Emulsion spray sealing as credible alternative to hot bitumen solution
- Adoption of low carbon asphalt
- Sustainable asphalt to reduce waste and carbon emissions
- Elimination of diesel in some key products
- Support for engineering students.

His teamwork has driven a collaborative culture at Downer, helping to ensure that projects are delivered on time and on budget and resulting in flexible pavements being the preferred treatment on projects across the state.

Gana is currently the Deputy Chairperson of the AAPA NSW State Branch and plays an active role in developing and delivering local strategies supporting AAPA's Strategic Plan. He also recently contributed to AAPA's five-year national strategy. He takes a keen interest in the RMS-AAPA Strategic Alignment meetings and shapes outcomes that suit the flexible pavement industry.

He has enjoyed a substantial career in asphalt and his positive influence has improved the industry in many ways.