

AAPA 2017 VIC INDUSTRY LEADER AWARD WINNER



PETER TODD

Peter gave a presentation in July 2016 about the safety advantages of using forward-moving aggregate spreading equipment in sprayed sealing operations, and the VicRoads Deputy Chief Executive hasn't looked back.

He seized the opportunity to progress the adoption and employment of this equipment into spray sealing operations in Victoria.

In order to implement this significant safety initiative, Peter arranged for the mandating of the introduction of the equipment use in accordance with a practical timetable and established a financial incentive to reward early adoption and assist industry in the transition to the new equipment.

This initiative provides a quantum leap in the journey 'Toward Safer Sprayed Sealing Operations' and has been delivered in less than 12 months.

The mandating of the use of forward-moving aggregate spreading operations by specifications which include financial incentive and reward systems will allow innovative technologies to be introduced into Victoria and ultimately nationally. The incentive and reward system recognises the significant cost to industry of embracing the technologies progressively while remaining competitive during the transition

period. The new specification has been operative from July 2017.

VicRoads and industry conducted workshops to identify and rank the highest risk activities in sprayed sealing operations and develop strategies to address them. Rearward moving aggregate spreading was identified as highest risk because it involves tip trucks with an elevated body travelling at significant speed in reverse with the driver working with severely restricted vision of the worksite.

In order to progress the initiative and achieve safer spray sealing operations, a joint VicRoads and industry working group was formed to harness the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of VicRoads and industry to progress towards the joint goal. Other road authorities in various jurisdictions have already expressed interest in the initiative.

Traditional rear-travelling aggregate-spreading operations have resulted in numerous casualties in the past. The employment of forward-moving operations with the operator able to clearly observe the worksite in front of the vehicle will reduce the risk of collisions with other plant and pedestrians involved in the spray sealing operation. Industry has embraced the initiative and is working closely with VicRoads.