

Rise & Fall Settings Update: Progress Across Jurisdictions

10 June 2026

Dear Members,

This update covers developments across all jurisdictions since our last communication on 1 May 2026. There has been meaningful progress in New South Wales, the Northern Territory, and Victoria.

New South Wales: Bitumen R&F Extended to Major Projects and Sydney Metro

On 28 May 2026, Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) published the C170 average bitumen price for April 2026 at \$2,057.00 per tonne. TfNSW also confirmed a revised March 2026 rate of \$2,057.00 per tonne, applicable from 31 March 2026.

This is a significant development. The initial bitumen R&F relief confirmed in April covered asphalt and bitumen sealing works panel arrangements. The April C170 index now activates rise-and-fall provisions under major project contracts and Sydney Metro works that reference the C170 index directly, the gap in coverage that AfPA identified and pursued with TfNSW.

Contractors working under those contracts should review their individual contract terms and speak with their project superintendent to confirm how the updated index applies.

Northern Territory: Fuel Cost Escalation Measures Confirmed

On 5 May 2026, the NT Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI) issued a formal stakeholder notice confirming temporary fuel cost escalation measures for eligible DLI contracts. Key features:

- Price adjustments applied monthly using AIP published daily fuel prices, rather than quarterly or annually
- Quarterly reconciliation against ABS petroleum indices once released
- Applies to invoices approved and paid during March, April, and May 2026
- No change to contract risk allocation or entitlement
- Retrospective adjustment: contractors with invoices already paid in March and April will receive the fuel adjustment automatically in scheduled payment runs – no additional claims required

This confirms that all jurisdictions except Victoria and Tasmania are now providing some form of fuel cost relief. AfPA's direct ministerial engagement with the NT DLI contributed to this outcome.

Contractors with DLI contracts should direct queries to their superintendent or contract representative in the first instance. Further information is available at dli.nt.gov.au/industry or via fuelmeasure.dli@nt.gov.au.

Victoria – April Bitumen Index Confirmed

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) has updated the bitumen index to reflect April pricing. This gives contractors the contractual basis to recover increased bitumen costs under contracts containing VicRoads Section 199 rise-and-fall provisions. This is progress from the position reported on 1 May.

AfPA's engagement with DTP, including formal written representation supported by the Victorian branch membership, contributed to this outcome.

Fuel recovery in Victoria remains unresolved. DTP is still assessing the implications of the Fair Work Commission Road Transport Contractual Chain Order – Fuel Cost Recovery – 2026 (RTCCO). AfPA's engagement on this matter continues, and we will update members once that assessment is concluded.

The absence of confirmed fuel relief in Victoria and Tasmania remains the most significant outstanding gap in the national picture.

State-by-State Summary

This summary sets out bitumen rise-and-fall and fuel cost recovery positions across all jurisdictions as of 1 June 2026. Use it as a reference when reviewing your contract position. Where your individual contract terms differ from the general position, contact your road authority directly to confirm what relief applies.

Bitumen Rise-and-Fall Outcomes (1 June 2026)

Jurisdiction	Position	Status
Queensland	TMR applying current-cost bitumen indicators at the 15th day of each month. Applies to asphalt and bitumen spray seal works.	Confirmed
New South Wales	TfNSW C170 index updated for March 2026 (\$2,057.00/tonne, applicable from 31 March) and April 2026 (\$2,057.00/tonne). Relief now confirmed for asphalt panel, bitumen sealing panel, and major project/Sydney Metro contracts referencing the C170 index.	Confirmed
South Australia	Current-cost bitumen recovery in place for state GC21 contracts. Bitumen, cutter and PMB cost adjustments in place for PSA-BW contracts.	Confirmed
Western Australia	Current-cost bitumen recovery in place for state works.	Confirmed
Victoria	DTP has confirmed the updated April bitumen index. VicRoads Section 199 rise-and-fall provisions apply.	Confirmed
Tasmania	Productive discussions with the state road authority continue. No formal bitumen R&F mechanisms have yet been established.	Discussions ongoing.

Northern Territory	NT bitumen supply has not been materially affected due to locally available supply. No formal rise-and-fall mechanism has been established.	No Action Required
--------------------	---	--------------------

Note: Contract-specific nuances apply across all jurisdictions. Members should confirm how updated indices apply to their individual contracts. Contact your AfPA branch for guidance.

Fuel Recovery Confirmed Outcomes (1 June 2026)

Jurisdiction	Position	Status
Queensland	Fuel cost recovery mechanism confirmed for state works, utilising the AfPA Calculator.	Confirmed
New South Wales	Temporary fuel relief surcharge confirmed for bitumen sealing works panel (works completed from 1 April 2026, tendered prior to 20 March 2026), reviewed fortnightly. TfNSW continues to assess broader application of the FWC RTCCO across other panels.	Confirmed
South Australia	Fuel relief mechanism confirmed for GC21 contracts, with a one-month lag indicator. No R&F provision in PSA-BW contracts.	Confirmed
Western Australia	Fuel relief mechanism confirmed for state works.	Confirmed
Victoria	DTP is assessing the implications of the FWC RTCCO – Fuel Cost Recovery – 2026. No confirmed mechanism to date. AfPA is actively pursuing resolution.	Discussions ongoing.
Tasmania	Ongoing discussions with the state road authority. No confirmed mechanism to date.	Discussions ongoing.
Northern Territory	DLI temporary fuel cost escalation measures now confirmed. Applies to eligible DLI contracts for invoices paid March–May 2026, including retrospective payments for March and April.	Confirmed

Fuel Usage Tracking – Ongoing Requirement

Members are encouraged to record fuel usage for every contract with a state road authority, from 1 March 2026 onwards. This is especially important in Victoria and Tasmania, where fuel recovery has not yet been confirmed. When arrangements are in place, road authorities will require accurate, verifiable records.

Make sure you:

1. Record litres used on each contract.
2. Retain all fuel invoices, delivery records, and surcharge notifications.

Use the AfPA Fuel Calculator (or another tool you prefer) to track volumes and costs. Contact your AfPA branch for access to the calculator and supporting guidance.

What Comes Next

AfPA continues to pursue fuel relief in Victoria and Tasmania. AfPA is also working with members and industry organisations to [develop strategies that protect Australia's long-term bitumen supply](#).

The national picture has improved substantially. Rise-and-fall mechanisms are now in place across the full supply chain in the majority of jurisdictions, and fuel relief is confirmed in five of seven. AfPA is actively pursuing the remaining gaps.

We will provide a further update as significant developments occur.

Tony Aloisio

Chief Executive Officer
Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA)

10 June 2026

Disclaimer: AfPA's role throughout this disruption has been to coordinate a national industry response to the global crude oil crisis and collaborate with state and territory road authorities on behalf of our members to establish fair, fit-for-purpose contractual mechanisms that enable our members to respond to rapidly changing market conditions.