

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
8 Davidson Terrace
Joondalup WA 6027

Via email to: climatebill@dwer.wa.gov.au

SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE BILL – EXPLANATORY PAPER

Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on the Climate Change Bill – Explanatory Paper.

CCAA is the peak industry body for the heavy construction materials industry in Australia including the cement, pre-mixed concrete and extractive industries. Our members operate cement distribution facilities, concrete batching plants, hard rock quarries and sand and gravel extraction operations throughout Western Australia.

CCAA supports the intent of the legislation to set statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, report annually to Parliament about Western Australia’s progress against emissions reduction targets and develop policies and plans to support achievement of targets and enhance climate resilience.

The cement and concrete industry has declared its [ambition](#) to deliver net zero carbon cement and concrete to Australian society by 2050. The industry has also released a [Decarbonisation Pathways for the Australian Cement and Concrete Sector](#) that identifies key principles and opportunities for decarbonisation specifically relevant for this sector. Whilst the Australian cement and concrete sector has a long history of reducing its CO2 emissions having delivered a 25 per cent reduction since 2000, continued effort across all segments of the cement and concrete value chain will be required to achieve this ambition.

The Australian cement and concrete sector together with key stakeholders across the value chain are in the process of developing engagement plans based on the identified pathways to implement the key recommendations of the *Decarbonisation Pathways for the Australian Cement and Concrete Sector* report and are committed to reviewing progress on a regular basis.

This will build on the past and current initiatives undertaken by the sector. For the industry to be successful in continuing to reduce its emissions, further R&D, investment and commitment from researchers, government and all stakeholders across the value chain will be crucial.

The heavy construction materials supply sector in Western Australia is largely local and acknowledges its role in mitigating climate change impacts while reducing emissions, provided that viable decarbonisation pathways are identified and incentivised and legislation is equitable and advantageous and does not provide unnecessary regulatory impediment.

Our industry acknowledges and is supportive of Western Australia’s proven track record in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CCAA **supports** the importance of a partnership approach (rather than a prescriptive one) to achieving significant emissions reductions whilst maintaining the internal competitiveness of critical local manufacturing industries. Balancing economic, social and environmental issues while pursuing the long-term ambition of net zero emissions is vital.

As a trade exposed sector, a fundamental requirement will be that the transition to net zero does not lead to undermining the competitiveness of Western Australia's cement and concrete manufacturing base and the thousands of jobs it supports.

Western Australia's regulatory environment needs to be internationally competitive to continue to attract capital to invest into the state to ensure a sustainable and competitive heavy construction materials industry. This in turn facilitates Western Australia's productivity, housing affordability and lower infrastructure costs.

Yours sincerely



ROGER BUCKLEY

State Director Western Australia