

## **SUSTAINABLE ROAD PROJECTS GET VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

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Recycled concrete, glass, plastics and even rubber could be used in future to pave pedestrian walkways and major roads, as part of a commitment to increased sustainability by the Australian heavy construction materials industry.

The industry's peak body, Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia (CCA), has welcomed an announcement by the Victorian Government to provide grants worth over \$1.5 million this year for innovative road surface projects.

The Chief Executive Officer of CCA, Ken Slattery, said the grants had been made to a number of initiatives across Victoria involving construction materials companies as well as local councils and higher education institutions.

Mr Slattery said the public grants were on top of the millions of dollars that had been contributed directly or in kind by CCA members to the initiatives.

"The heavy construction materials industry is committed to a sustainable future, investing time and money into innovative, world-class initiatives that could one day revolutionise the way we build infrastructure in Australia," Mr Slattery said.

"Many of the projects being undertaken by our members are at the forefront of research and development initiatives globally, and we welcome the support shown by the Victorian Government.

"The industry is committed to the use of recycled materials where viable, in order to minimise the pressure on the sourcing of raw materials.

"This is integral to the Helping Victoria Grow; Extractive Resources Strategy developed by the Victorian State Government, in partnership with CCA.

"Concrete has an unmatched range of uses and combines low environmental impact with affordability. Its durability, resilience, energy efficiency and recyclability, make it the most sustainable construction material over the lifecycle."

He said the grants announced by the Victorian Government included \$200,000 for the next stage of work undertaken by Boral Limited with RMIT University in Melbourne which is looking at developing a premix concrete that uses recycled plastics and rubber.

Another grant - worth \$176,000 - had been awarded for the next stage of a demonstration project that is trialling a permeable pavement, using recycled concrete, brick, glass, plastics and rubber, under real traffic conditions. The project is led by the University of Melbourne, with the participation of Downer EDI Works.

Mr Slattery said the grants recognised the fact that concrete was a highly versatile and cost effective building and construction material.

“What is not widely known is that the concrete industry is a major consumer of other industries’ waste and by-products which can be used as fuel and supplementary materials in the production process,” he added.

He said the industry employed over 110,000 Australians and contributed over \$15 billion a year to the national economy.

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Copies of the Helping Victoria Grow; Extractive Resources Strategy can be accessed here: <http://earthresources.vic.gov.au/earth-resources/industry-and-investment/minerals-development-victoria/extractive-resources-strategy>

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