

## LAUNCH OF INFRASTRUCTURE WA CRITICAL FOR LONG-TERM GROWTH IN HEAVY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY

September 20, 2019

Industry forecasts released today by *Cement, Concrete & Aggregates Australia* (CCA) reveal that the launch of Infrastructure WA (IWA) comes at critical time for the State's construction industry.

The new body will provide advice and assistance to the Government on infrastructure-related matters, with its initial primary focus being the development of a 20-year State Infrastructure Strategy for WA.

Figures released today by CCA showed that construction projects in WA were expected to consume an average of 2.5 million cubic metres of pre-mixed concrete a year for the next three years until 2022, which is equivalent to filling 1000 Olympic-sized swimming pools each year.

The Chief Executive Officer of the CCA, Ken Slattery, said the industry was fully supportive of moves by the State Government to identify infrastructure needs and priorities to support Western Australia's growing population.

"We welcome the decision by Premier McGowan to establish the new body as a way of ensuring responsible, long term infrastructure planning for the State, in a way that will improve infrastructure in WA and help to create new jobs across the industry," Mr Slattery said.

"In our view, IWA will play a vital role in helping provide guidance and advice on both, the projects that need urgent action on the part of the Government, as well as long-term planning for the next 20 years."

Mr Slattery said the pipeline of major infrastructure projects in Western Australia depended on having ready and cost-effective access to concrete supply.

"Major infrastructure projects, such as the \$2.11 billion Riverside, the Metronet project and the Main Roads WA \$4.7 billion Infrastructure Development Plan are helping to drive significant demand for concrete and aggregates in Western Australia" Mr Slattery said.

"This means that cost effective supply of concrete, close to where the work is located, will be more important than ever.

"Our industry, which employs more than 110,000 employees nationally either directly or indirectly, is committed to working with the McGowan Government to get the very best outcomes for WA communities – and taxpayers."

Mr Slattery said the industry contributed over \$15 billion to the national economy every year.

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