

CCA RELEASES EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY PRIORITIES STATEMENT FOR ENHANCING AUSTRALIA'S BIODIVERSITY

April 27, 2020

The peak body for the heavy construction materials industry, *Cement, Concrete & Aggregates Australia* (CCA), has today released a new extractive industry policy priorities statement for enhancing Australia's biodiversity.ⁱ

The CEO of CCA, Ken Slattery, said the new policy priorities were part of the extractive industry's long-held commitment to supply critical construction materials for the community in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way.

"The sector has long been committed to supplying construction materials for the Australian community in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner," Mr. Slattery said.

"It is common practice for our members to undertake effective and progressive rehabilitation and restoration of quarry sites, which are contributing to significant environmental outcomes throughout Australia.

"The sector aims to minimise its environmental impact and, where possible, achieve a net positive benefit to biodiversity and sustainable land uses.

"These new policy priorities build on this commitment by identifying the key areas of policy that need to change."

Mr Slattery explained that the industry is seeking a framework that further advances its excellent track record in biodiversity management, which would require the following changes:

- A proportionate and risk based regulatory framework, and environmental conditions for planning approvals that are not retrospective;
- Consistency, clarity and harmonisation of policy across all levels of government;
- Allowing for offsets to be staged over the life of the quarry as the site is progressively rehabilitated; and,
- For operators to be able to generate biodiversity credits from actions that improve biodiversity values and that can be used to offset any biodiversity values.

"There needs to be major improvements at all levels of government in order for operators to be successful in further improving biodiversity in their local regions," Mr Slattery said.

"CCA has also recently made a submission in response to the EPBC Act Review - a copy of which is available on our websiteⁱⁱ—and we will continue to raise awareness across all levels of government of the importance of amending legislation to help the industry in its aim to significantly enhance biodiversity outcomes throughout Australia."

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ⁱ *Enhancing Australia's Biodiversity Extractive Industry Priorities (April 2020):*

https://www.ccaa.com.au/imis_prod/documents/CCAA_Enhancing%20Australias%20B%20iodiversity_A4_FA_Singles.pdf

ⁱⁱ *CCAA's response to the EPBC Act Review:*

https://www.ccaa.com.au/imis_prod/documents/17042020_NAT_response_to_EPBC_Act_Review_Final.pdf