

CCA WELCOMES ACTION BY VIC STATE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT CASHFLOW OF VITAL QUARRY BUSINESSES

May 22, 2020

Action by the Victorian Government to defer the collection of rent and annual fees to support the vital operations of Quarries has been welcomed by Cement, Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCA), as another important step in helping the state's economic recovery from COVID 19.

The announcement today by the Minister for Resources Jaclyn Symes is in line with the Victorian policy priorities recently unveiled by CCA, and recognises the critical role the Quarry sector will play in supporting jobs and in the supply of essential materials for the state's recovery program across infrastructure, housing and other construction.

CCA also welcomed the Government's intention to streamline planning to further assist Quarries to grow and build their capacity for the delivery of the rock, sand and stone needed for the Infrastructure agenda and building blitz planned.

The Chief Executive Officer of CCA, Ken Slattery, said the industry was pleased to see the Victorian Government take this action in support of the state's Quarry businesses, in recognition of the vital role they will play in supplying the rock, sand and stone needed for the state's infrastructure agenda and *Building Works* recovery package.

"The battle against COVID 19 has been costly, with more than 100 Australians having lost their lives, large parts of the economy placed in lockdown, and hundreds of thousands of jobs having been lost," he said.

"But as the health implications of the pandemic decline, the focus is shifting towards how Australia can recover economically.

"The Australian construction sector is an essential component of the national economy, accounting for about 10 per cent of our GDP, and employing over 1.2 million people across the country, many of them, small business owners.

The State Director for CCA in Victoria, Brian Hauser, said that the construction sector provides the engine for Victoria's economic recovery and Cement, concrete, stone and sand are the critical materials that enable Victoria's Infrastructure and Building, with construction employing 340,000 workers and contributing 45% of Victoria's taxation revenue base.

"And the stone, sand and other construction materials we provide are locally sourced, employing local workers and making a major contribution to the local economy now and into the future through the recovery phase.

"We strongly welcome the Victorian Government's measures."

Media enquiries (Cannings Strategic Communications):
William Roberts - 0431 318 893 / wroberts@canningscomms.com.au