

MEDIA RELEASE

STRONGER FOUNDATIONS NEEDED FOR QUEENSLAND'S INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS

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Australia's heavy construction materials industry has called for urgent policy reform to help deliver infrastructure plans being put forward by both major political parties in the 2020 State election.

In its pre-election policy agenda *Supporting Queensland in Uncertain Times*, the sector's industry body, Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia (CCA), has outlined a series of policy priorities to ensure materials such as sand, gravel, premixed concrete and cement can be provided cost-effectively into the future, and that important infrastructure promises can be delivered.

"It's pleasing to see both major parties placing construction and infrastructure at the centre of their economic agendas, supported by a number of recent Federal Government budget announcements", said Aaron Johnstone, Queensland State Director of CCA.

"However, when you consider that just one kilometre of a two lane highway requires some 14,000 tonnes of sand and gravel, or 400 truckloads of materials, it's a stark reminder that careful planning is needed to keep construction and infrastructure costs low."

CCA particularly urges a future State Government to take a greater role in the quarry approval and protection process - to put in place clear measures to prevent local councils from allowing incompatible development near quarry reserves, and in supporting the development of new or extended operations in the face of non-representative local interests.

"Local opposition to such projects will hinder plans for an infrastructure-led recovery by stopping jobs, making building materials more expensive, increasing the costs of housing, schools and hospitals, and putting more trucks on to already congested roads" Mr Johnstone said.

"An average new home needs about 110 tonnes of crushed rock, sand and cement in 53m³ of concrete."

CCA has also called on both parties to:

- Enact a cross-government construction materials strategy to ensure cohesive policy approach for construction and infrastructure materials, and appoint Minister with specific oversight for the strategy.

- Support lower energy cost measures for manufacturers to foster investment and ensure local industry capability.
- Support waste-to-energy programs in the cement sector.
- Procurement models that encourage a broad range of participants in delivering infrastructure projects.

The election statement can be found on CCAA website at www.ccaa.com.au
Further information Aaron Johnstone on 0439 955 020

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