

MEDIA RELEASE

CCAA WELCOMES THE VIC BUDGET'S RECORD INFRASTRUCTURE PIPELINE AND CONSTRUCTION SPEND

November 24, 2020

The peak body representing the heavy construction materials industry, Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA), today welcomed Victoria's State Budget 2020/21 and the record funding directed towards Job creation, new housing and infrastructure programs in order to repair, recover and make Victoria stronger than before.

The Budget includes a Job Plan set to create 400,000 jobs by 2025 and a record Infrastructure pipeline at \$78.4 billion, with average expenditure of \$19.6 billion over the next four years: more than 4 times the previous 10-year annual average. This is spread across a diverse range of projects from regional road and rail upgrades to schools and the *Big Build* projects.

CCAA also welcomes the \$6 billion *Big Housing Build* package including a record \$5.3 billion investment in social housing, to support Victorians and essential construction in regional Victoria. This will create significant new pull-through demand for the cement, concrete, and aggregates industry at a time when the population growth driver for the housing sector would otherwise have been adversely impacted in a post-pandemic world.

CCAA is also pleased with the announcement of the housing stimulus package of up to 50% stamp duty saving for new builds up to \$1 million. This should further support the Australian Government's HomeBuilder scheme and is expected to increase demand for new house construction throughout Victoria.

Delivery of this very ambitious construction led recovery will continue to rely on the efficient supply of cement, concrete, stone and sand from across our construction materials supply chain, and further support the broader Victorian construction industry that employs some 340,000 workers and contributes 45% of Victoria's taxation revenue base.

The Chief Executive Officer of CCAA, Ken Slattery, welcomed the budget and urged the government to focus their attention on ensuring approvals processes and planning reforms deliver streamlined systems. "The extraordinary expenditure directed towards a recovery from the pandemic is welcome and timely but must be matched by red-tape reduction and streamlining of government systems" Mr Slattery said.

Brian Hauser, State Director VIC & TAS for CCAA also welcomed the strong investment directed towards shovel-ready smaller community infrastructure projects and housing state-wide. These projects play an important role in supporting local employment through supplementing the major infrastructure project pipeline. "The smaller projects are the ones most likely to be built in the short term, giving a more immediate stimulus to the VIC economy and creating jobs." Mr Hauser said.

Mr Hauser welcomed the budget announcements. "The record investment in construction will enable this sector to be the engine room for the State's post COVID economic recovery, rebuilding Victoria and creating jobs, as CCAA has strongly advocated for and outlined earlier this year in the [Victorian Policy Priorities](#) document."

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Media enquiries (Brian Hauser):

brian.hauser@ccaa.com.au

Mob: 0407 924 320