

MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL COVID 19 GUIDELINES RELEASED FOR AUSTRALIA'S HEAVY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY

March 27, 2020

The Australian heavy construction materials industry has released new safety guidelines to help protect employees, contractors and the community during the COVID 19 outbreak.

The new guidelines, which come into force immediately, will also help ensure the longer-term viability of the industry, which is regarded as essential to the country's economic recovery once the outbreak is controlled.

The guidelines were compiled by the industry's peak body, Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCA), which represents companies contributing over \$15 billion to the national economy – and employing over 110,000 direct and indirect employees.

The Chief Executive Officer of CCA, Ken Slattery, said the production and distribution of heavy construction materials were essential to the continuing operations of a large part of the Australian economy, from the building of hospitals and schools to completion of major road projects.

“As an industry, we also have a paramount responsibility for the health and wellbeing of all our employees, contractors and the community at large,” Mr Slattery said. “That is why CCA has drawn up these new business continuity guidelines, following consultation over the past few days with our members, medical experts and federal and State government agencies.”

Mr Slattery said the guidelines provided factual and practical recommendations on how to manage production facilities, such as concrete batching plants and quarries, as well as recommendations for drivers and administration personnel.

He said the suggestions ranged from encouraging administration staff to work remotely and the introduction of staggered working shifts and meal times, to how concrete truck drivers can minimise contact at delivery sites.

“We all have a role to play in tackling this national crisis and in ensuring the safety of our community as well as the long-term viability of our social and economic infrastructure,” he added.

A copy of the new guidelines can be accessed at: cca.com.au

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