

# LIVING NEAR A CONCRETE PLANT

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Concrete batch plants play an important role in our daily lives. They provide the concrete that's used to build our roads, hospitals, schools and our homes, building a stronger Australia.

To ensure our infrastructure remains affordable, it's important that the concrete is made close to where it is used as it generally only lasts 90 minutes before it starts to harden. That's why you find the concrete batch plants in and around the communities that use their product, supporting local jobs and reducing costs for local council projects.

Concrete batch plants operate to strict conditions and are committed

to minimising the impact of their operations on local communities and environments. If you live near a concrete batch plant you may notice vehicles used to transport concrete and its ingredients.

The following information will provide more information about transporting concrete and its ingredients and what the plant managers and government regulators do to minimise any impact on those living or working nearby.

## WHAT IS A CONCRETE BATCH PLANT?

Cement, sand and gravel are transported by truck to the concrete batch plant where they are stored separately in large bins or silos. These ingredients are then accurately measured and poured into waiting agitator trucks. Water is added and the concrete mixed as the agitator barrel is rotated, ready for testing and delivery direct to the construction site.

### IS THERE SOMEONE I CAN TALK TO IF I HAVE FURTHER CONCERNS?

Contact your local concrete batch plant manager to raise any concerns you may have and at the same time, allow them to explain the safe and proper operation of the site.

## WHY DO WE NEED TRUCKS FOR CONCRETE?

Concrete batch plants rely on three types of heavy vehicles:

- Truck and trailer – a truck towing a trailer behind it, loaded with sand or gravel needed to make the concrete.
- Cement tankers – these carry the cement powder also needed for the concrete.
- Concrete agitators – these trucks carry the pre-mixed concrete in a rotating barrel to the construction site.

## ARE THE TRUCKS REGULATED?

The trucks used to make and supply concrete, like all heavy vehicles have the potential to impact roads and other road users. The concrete industry works with government regulators to ensure that those impacts are minimised through careful planning and management.

The trucks and tankers supplying the concrete batch plants are only permitted to travel on specific roads that have been designated by government regulators. They operate under strict guidelines on vehicle size and weight and these are verified by weigh bridges before leaving the quarry site or cement facility.

The impact of trucks on local roads is also minimised by locating the batch plant as close as possible to a major road and by installing Road Authority required traffic management solutions.

Concrete batch plants may have to operate in the early morning to provide concrete to building sites and to avoid contributing to the morning peak hour congestion in city areas. These operating hours and traffic movement times are regulated by the local council.

## ARE THEY SAFE?

Truck drivers take their safety responsibilities seriously. All trucks are subject to national chain-of-responsibility regulation which means that companies must maintain vehicles to a safe standard and ensure that their drivers are fit and have adequate rest breaks to avoid fatigue. The truck drivers are professional drivers and hold special licences to operate their vehicles and undertake ongoing training.

Road safety is also an important concern for concrete batch plant managers who should follow up on complaints and concerns raised by the community.

## AREN'T THE TRUCKS NOISY AND DIRTY?

Concrete batch plant managers have a responsibility to minimise the impact of their transport fleets on local communities. To achieve this they implement strategies that include:

- regularly maintaining their truck fleet to ensure they are safe and clean
- regularly renewing their fleet to ensure that new vehicle technologies are continuously incorporated into vehicles, increasing safety and reducing noise and emissions
- maintaining Transport Codes of Conduct which clearly set out the company's expectations of anyone transporting materials
- using wheel wash facilities to minimise dust carried onto roadways
- covering truckloads of sand and gravel during transport
- limit where practicable the operation of trucks to appropriate hours.



Visit [www.cca.com.au](http://www.cca.com.au) to find out more.