



**CEMENT CONCRETE  
& AGGREGATES AUSTRALIA**



## **Enhancing Australia's Biodiversity**

### **Extractive Industry Priorities**

April 2020





## About CCAA

Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA) is the peak industry body for cement manufacturers, concrete suppliers and extractive operators throughout Australia.

Collectively known as the heavy construction materials industry, our members are engaged in the quarrying of sand, stone and gravel, the manufacture of cement and the supply of pre-mixed concrete to meet Australia's building and construction needs.

Heavy construction materials are vital to delivering the infrastructure required to support Australia's built economy.



## The extractive industry's approach to sustainability and biodiversity

Our industry has an obligation to supply construction materials in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner, as set out in our values and goals in the *CCAA Environmental Management Policy Statement* agreed by the senior leaders of the industry in 2017 (see below).

Our approach on biodiversity is set within this context:

- Minimise the environmental impact of extractive operations, and where possible, achieve a net positive benefit to biodiversity, sustainable land uses and other environmental values;
- Progressive and staged onsite rehabilitation and ongoing buffer enhancement throughout the life of the quarry;

- Achieve the best biodiversity outcomes through collaboration, consultation, transparency and partnership - with community, government, researchers and other partners;
- Share innovations in biodiversity practices for the betterment of the community, the industry and the environment in which we operate; and
- Develop the industry's capability in biodiversity management, through professional development, stakeholder engagement, technological advances and training.

## The unique extractive industry

The extractive industry quarries hard rock and sand to produce coarse and fine aggregates to create concrete (the most common construction material on the planet) and a range of other construction materials.

**Each year, about 180 million tonnes of stone, limestone, gravel and sand are extracted from about 2,200 quarries in Australia.**

Unlike many other land uses, there are several unique characteristics of extractive industry that should be considered in developing environmental and planning frameworks, such as:

- The actual processing part of a quarry is often less than half of the overall quarry property – the remaining area serves as vegetation or as a natural buffer;
- Quarrying serves as a temporary land use with great opportunities for the creation of strategic, end of life use once resources have been exhausted;
- The location of quarries is dictated by geology with often little opportunity for the operation to be moved; and
- The small, overall landscape footprint of the sector – for example, just 0.26 per cent of Victoria.

Examples of post-quarry land use include new recreational and leisure assets for the community, revegetation and planting to create wetlands, waterways and wildlife corridors to enhance native habitat, the preservation of natural heritage as well as the construction of new infrastructure and housing.

## Sustainable Land Use

Quarries are usually long term operations and often serve the needs of their community for many years. As the resources are progressively extracted and exhausted, the quarry is progressively rehabilitated to bring it back to a state that is sensitive to both the nature of the final landform once quarrying ceases and the opportunities for repurposing the site.

The rehabilitation plan is usually determined as part of the quarry approval process and often involves replacing the original topsoil, reproducing waterways, replanting local vegetation and creating fauna habitats. This is a continual process as operations move from one section of the quarry site to another, and results in thousands of new trees being planted in and around quarries across Australia each year.

Australia contains many examples of post-quarry life redevelopment. Former quarry sites now exist as community recreational assets such as parklands, sports fields, lakes and waterways, wetlands, as well as housing estates and employment hubs.

## Our Policy Priorities

The industry works within a range of Federal, State and Local Government policies aimed at protecting biodiversity values. Whilst our industry supports the broad *intent* of these policies, it believes that major improvements can be made to simplify them, make them more effective, lessen their cost impact, and better take into account the efforts that many quarries already undertake in improving biodiversity in their local regions.

In particular, environmental offset requirements favour the urban development sector by offering a quick return on the initial investment following the clearing of land, without the requirement for site rehabilitation within a short timeframe.

Our industry develops the land slowly and rehabilitates the site, with a longer timeframe to make a return on the initial investment.



PRIORITIES	ACTIONS
Stronger biodiversity outcomes	Taking into account the work of extractive industry that has positively contributed to an increase in biodiversity and environmental outcomes
Proportionate framework	Proportionate and risk based regulatory framework and environmental conditions for planning approvals that are not retrospective
Consistency	Consistency, clarity and harmonisation of policy and legislation across different levels of government to reduce duplication and regulatory burden
Equity	A regulatory framework that recognises industry improvements, encourages good practices, and focuses compliance on higher risk operators, or those with a history of poor performance.
Biodiversity Offsets	Allow for offsets to be staged over the life of the quarry as the site is progressively rehabilitated, completing onsite rehabilitation to an appropriate standard that realises biodiversity benefits to be realised across the site, throughout its lifetime.
Biodiversity Credits	Biodiversity credits are generated from management actions that improve biodiversity values and are used to offset the loss of biodiversity values. Where possible, they should be carried out in accordance with a bio banking agreement.



## Case Study: Life After Quarrying – Penrith Lakes

Penrith Lakes in Sydney's west was once a major quarry, with a history stretching back to the days of colonial settlement. The Castlereagh quarry supplied 160 Million tonnes of stone, sand and gravel from which much of metropolitan Sydney was built for almost 130 years before commencing progressive remediation into a series of recreational lakes in the late 1990's.

The Penrith Lakes Scheme is amongst the world's most innovative and sizeable quarry remediation projects. Both the Sydney International Regatta Centre and Penrith White Water Stadium hosted many rowing events during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

The 1,940 hectare site was completely remade into a vast system of river-front, lakes, parkland and wildlife havens following finalisation of quarrying in 2015.

It features unique flora and fauna, some of the earliest historical landmarks of European settlement in the Sydney region, bushwalking trails, cultural attractions and facilities for swimming, sailing, boating, fishing and general recreation.

Penrith Lakes is set to become a major attraction for the people of Western Sydney plus tourists and visitors from far beyond.



## CCAA Membership

### FOUNDATION MEMBERS



### ORDINARY MEMBERS

Allsands Pty Limited  
Alsafe Pre-Mix Concrete Pty Ltd  
Barossa Quarries Pty Ltd  
Barro Group  
Baxters Concrete Pty Ltd  
Bedrock Quarry Products & Bulk Transport  
Benedict Industries Pty Ltd  
Bis Quarries Pty Ltd  
Braeside Quarries Pty Ltd  
Brisbane City Council T/A Bracalba Quarries  
Broadway & Frame Premix  
Burdekin Concrete Pty Ltd  
Concrete Pty Ltd  
Byrne Bros Pty Ltd  
CCS Materials Pty Ltd  
Clare Quarry Pty Ltd  
Clay & Mineral Sales Pty Ltd  
Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd  
Concrete 4 Goulburn  
Concrete Pty Ltd  
Davalan Concrete Pty Ltd  
Delatite Pre-Mix Pty Ltd T/A Mansfield Pre Mix

D K Quarries Pty Ltd  
Duggans Pty Limited  
Elvin Group Pty Ltd  
Entire Concrete Pty Ltd  
Eziway Concrete (T & M Lynch Pty Ltd T/as)  
Flyash Australia Pty Ltd  
Forbes Concrete Pty Ltd  
Fulton Hogan Industries  
Gaspersic Contracting Pty Ltd  
Gunlake Concrete NSW Pty Ltd  
Hazel Bros Group Pty Ltd  
Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd  
Hunter Valley Concrete Pty Ltd  
Hymix Australia Pty Ltd  
Independent Cement & Lime Pty Ltd  
Kennedy Haulage Pty Ltd  
Lime Industries Pty Ltd  
Mackay Sand and Gravel Sales  
Mantina Quarries  
Mentone Pre Mix  
Metromix Concrete Pty Ltd  
Metro Quarry Group Pty Ltd  
Minicrete Concrete  
Mini-crete Pty Ltd Seven Hills

MSD Construction Pty Ltd  
MSP Group Pty Ltd  
Neilsen's Quality Gravels Pty Ltd  
Nucrush Pty Ltd  
Parkes Ready Mixed Concrete Pty Ltd  
PF Formation Sand and Concrete  
Pilatti Bros Transport  
Pioneer North Queensland Pty Ltd  
Premier Resources T/A Hy-Tec Industries Pty Ltd  
Qcrete Premix Pty Ltd  
Quarrior Products Pty Ltd  
Ransberg Pty Ltd T/a WA Premix and WA Blumetal  
Riverside Industrial Sands Pty Ltd  
RNB Trading Pty Ltd  
Santos Ready Mixed Concrete Pty Ltd  
SA Premium Cement & Concrete Pty Ltd  
SLN Australia Pty Ltd  
Sloans Sands Pty Ltd  
Southern Cross Cement  
Southern Pacific Sands  
Southern Quarries Pty Ltd  
Stoney Pinch Pty Ltd T/as Stoney Pinch Quarry  
Sunstate Cement Limited

Supermix Concrete & Quarries  
Tegra Australia Pty Ltd  
The Concrete Yard Pty Ltd T/as  
Queanbeyan Pre-Mix Concrete  
Treloar Transport  
Urban Resources Pty Ltd  
Wagners Holding Company Ltd  
Walleroo Contracting Pty Ltd  
Western Suburbs Concrete  
Zanows Sand and Gravel

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

BHS-Sonthofen (Aust) Pty Ltd  
Command Alkon Inc.  
Concrete Colour Systems  
Fieldwicks Crushing & Screening GCP  
Applied Technologies  
Sika Australia Pty Ltd  
Third Zeton Pty Ltd T/A Tieman Tankers  
WAM Australia  
Westrac  
Xypex Australia [Concrete Waterproofing Manufacturing Pty Ltd T/a Xypex Australia]

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