

5 February 2021

DELWP
Victoria Australia 3000

Via website: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/gwal>

Dear Sir/Madam

PLANNING FOR MELBOURNE'S GREEN WEDGES AND AGRICULTURAL LAND: CONSULTATION PAPER

The Construction Material Processors Association (CMPA) is dedicated to the representation and service of its Members in the Victorian Earth Resources industry. The CMPA represents a broad spectrum of businesses that extract and process hard rock, gravel, sand, clay, lime, and soil. CMPA members also operate recycling businesses.

CMPA members are typically small to medium sized family and private businesses, local government, and utilities. Many are regionally based employers and service local construction, infrastructure, and road maintenance needs. The extractives sector is a key pillar within the construction industry underpinning the growth and economic development of Victoria through supply of the construction materials.

In 2018/19, the sector supplied 63 million tonnes of construction materials to the market, at a value of approximately \$1.1 billion. Small to medium quarries account for approximately half of this production.

The CMPA supports the principle of responsible, balanced legislation that is in the best interests of the State of Victoria and Australia.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Planning for Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land: Consultation Paper (Consultation Paper)

General comments

It is pleasing to note that:

- Extractive resources, extractive industries, and quarries are mentioned in the Consultation Report albeit in the context of planning challenges posed in Melbourne’s green wedge and peri-urban areas;
- A number of documents pertaining to the extractive industry such as Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources 2018, Helping Victoria grow – extractive resource strategy Melbourne are referenced;
- A series of actions have been undertaken to establish and protect green wedges that includes allowing industries such as sand and stone extraction to operate close to major markets.
- Regional growth plans (Central Highlands, Loddon Mallee South, Hume and Gippsland) highlight the need to protect and enhance state significant assets in their peri-urban areas relating to extractive resources.
- Desired planning outcome for green wedges and peri-urban areas: protect sand and stone resources for future extraction to ensure a continuous supply of construction material.

The Consultation Report fails to mention that for extractive industries:

- Quarrying is a temporary land use;
- A quarry site may be rehabilitated back to agricultural land in some cases;
- Agriculture is a compatible land use; and
- The “Summary of proposed options (Appendix 1)” does not include sand and stone extraction.

Summary

- That extractive industry operations and buffers continue to be included as a permissible use of strategic agricultural land.
- That applications for new work authorities/work plan variations continue to be included as a permissible use of strategic agricultural land.
- That Extractive Industry Interest Areas are recognised within strategic agricultural land.
- That strategic extractive resource areas are recognised within strategic agricultural land.

I would be happy to discuss our submission further at your invitation.

Yours sincerely



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