

26 February 2021

Michel Masson
CEO
Infrastructure Victoria

Via website: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/victorias-30-year-infrastructure-strategy>

Dear Mr Masson

VICTORIA'S DRAFT 30-YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

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 2019/20, 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 Victoria's Draft 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy. It is a very substantial document.

Consideration needs to be given to where the construction materials are going to originate from to service and accommodate this increase in infrastructure. Construction materials need to be located in close proximity to their utilisation in order to minimise transport costs, hence, reducing the carbon footprint. The lead time to open a quarry, due to the complex approval processes, can be up to 8 years. Even for a variation to an existing quarry to increase production may take several years

and once approved there may be a 12 month wait for fixed and/or mobile plant to be imported from overseas. The adequate supply of closely located, quality construction materials is vital to meet expected growth needs including critical infrastructure in Victoria and is the cornerstone to successfully achieving an Infrastructure Strategy.

p.20

“Recommendation 60. Expand the legislated definition of critical infrastructure and improve information flows. Immediately consider expanding the Victorian definition of critical infrastructure beyond energy, water and transport. Expand information sharing capabilities across and beyond critical infrastructure sectors.”

CMPA Comments

The extractive industry should also be included as critical infrastructure. The construction material supplied by quarries is fundamental to ensuring the existence of critical infrastructure such as energy, water, and transport. Adequate supply of construction material is at risk due to encroachment from inappropriate land use and long lead times for quarry approvals and variations.

P.23

“Recommendation 77. Deliver funding certainty for regional road maintenance and upgrades. Within two years, specify clear levels of service for each type of regional road and bridge. Following this, dedicate an ongoing program to fund regional road and bridge maintenance and upgrades to meet these service levels. Funding should be prioritized based on improving safety, decreasing vehicle emissions, and lifting economic productivity.”

CMPA comments

The above recommendation 77 is supported together with the detail of the recommendation on p.204.

Summary

- Capital investment in quarries either new or those seeking to increase production of construction materials requires the extractive industry to have confidence in the Infrastructure Strategy.
- Of concern is that due to no prioritisation, the recommendations are “cherry picked” by Government based on ease of implementation, popularity, and lower cost in preference to the infrastructure build recommendations that Victoria needs.
- Without a coherent, realistic, and practicable strategy for infrastructure coupled with the anticipated growth in the population of Victoria (notwithstanding the current hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic) the economic, social, and environmental prosperity of a growing Victoria will be at risk.

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

Yours sincerely

EM Gibson

Dr Elizabeth Gibson

General Manager

Tel: 0434 692 618

Email: elizabeth.gibson@cmpavic.asn.au