

31 January 2008

Liveability inquiry
Victorian Competition & Efficiency Commission
GPO Box 4379
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: INQUIRY TO ENHANCE VICTORIA'S LIVEABILITY

Maintaining and enhancing Victoria's liveability is vital to the continued development of the State thereby ensuring the extractive industries (and particularly our members) is able to operate competitive businesses.

The Construction Material Processors Association (CMPA) represents a broad spectrum of those involved in construction material processing businesses engaged in the extracting processing or otherwise working in hard rock, gravel, sand, masonry, clay, lime, soil, gypsum or recycling. These businesses are intrinsically linked to the State's continued growth and affluence.

It is our understanding that the state's liveability is, in a small part, due to the extractive industry's ability to provide community with a high volume, low cost commodity essential for housing and other infrastructure projects. The extractive industry also supports the state through the ability to recycle and resale construction materials such as waste concrete and bitumen.

To sustain and improve this industry, there is scope for the government to:

- Refining the planning system so that it is better able to process applications and variations within a reasonable timeframe and cost effectively, whilst continuing to meet community needs;
- Better protecting current and future extractive sites from aggressive and increasing urbanisation;
- Developing integrated transport systems that are able to support the distribution of the industry's products (such as major roads capable of carrying the weights involved and increasing access to railheads); and
- Encouraging secondary users of construction materials (such as concrete batching and bitumen plants) to be located where they are supported by mass transport systems.

The CMPA recognises that there will be numerous submissions to this inquiry, and so has limited its submission to one page. The Secretariat is willing to expand all or some of these points in an appropriate manner if requested by the Commission.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Andrew
CMPA Project Manager