

30 June 2010

Local Government Regulation Inquiry
Victorian Competition & Efficiency Commission
sent via email: localgovernment@vcec.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: STREAMLINING LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN VICTORIA - DRAFT REPORT

The Construction Material Processors Association (CMPA) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the draft report for the Inquiry into Streamlining Local Government in Victoria. We apologise for the belated nature of this submission.

Overall, our association is pleased with the recommendations made within the draft report, and although they will not fully resolve our sector's concerns in dealing with local government, they provide opportunities for expediting and streamlining our dealings with local government.

From the association's point of view the draft recommendations referring to procurement (8.1 – 8.4) will assist our sector in that the proposal for matters pertaining to the standardized specifications will focus councils on better managing the limited extractive resources that are available for their use and should result in a reduction in duplicated specifications and testing activities.

The association also feels that the draft recommendations referring to systematic issue and in particular recommendation 10.3 is highly commendable in that it identifies an issue that is currently at the core of many of the inefficiencies that are experienced by industry, local government and lead departments.

We would also suggest there needs to be financial modelling of all draft recommendations depicting the efficiency gains that will be available to local government to ensure there is a willingness to participate in change.

Our sector is not specifically identified within the draft recommendations but it needs to be recognised that for any commercial activity to occur in our sector we must first go through the Work Authority application process, for which the DPI – Earth Resources Regulation Branch are the lead agency. Due to the complex and time-consuming nature of applying for a Work Authority, the DPI has invested considerable time and energy into streamlining the process. We feel that there are synergies between what the DPI is currently proposing and what is contained within this draft report and suggest that contact be made with the DPI to further enhance the report's final outcome.

On a final note it is our observation that there has been limited and slow uptake of recommendations by the State and local governments. Our past experience suggests that although constructive recommendations are made by the VCEC, they tend not to find their way into daily operations in a timely manner. It is important to ensure recommendations are promptly enacted to ensure the work undertaken by VCEC can assist the community of Victoria to achieve their desired outcomes in a timely manner and at an affordable cost.

We applaud the draft report, and look forward to doing business with a streamlined local government.

Yours sincerely



Ron Kerr
Honorary CEO