

28 September 2007

The Secretary
Select Committee on Public Land Development
via email - richard.willis@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir

RE: SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment upon the above-mentioned committee. We understand that this Committee will be inquiring into matters relating to:

- The sale or alienation of public land for development;
- The sale or alienation of public open space for the purposes of private development; and
- The sale or alienation of public land for development and the relationship to the Victorian Government's Melbourne 2030 policy and Green Wedges.

The Construction Material Processors Association 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. Our submission is made representing such.

Management of Public Land

It is reasonably frequent in this industry for the extraction and processing of construction materials to occur on land owned by the Crown, be this local government, water authorities, forestry, DSE, etc. These many different departments have very different views about the ideal management of public lands and at times this is not consistent. It is our recommendation then that all public lands should be managed by one government body. We feel this would result in gains for industry through the reduction of bureaucratic wrangling and for the state and community in terms of consistent land management decisions.

Sale of Public Land

Our members understand and support the retention of public lands when they provide the community with usable and beneficial areas of open space. That said, there are windows of opportunity where some of our members who lease public lands may be interested in purchasing the land at market value.

Neighbouring Public Lands

We note that several submissions already made highlight the issue of changing the use of such lands. Although we understand this may not specifically be within the scope of the inquiry, we highlight the need to consider neighbouring land uses. For instances, many of our members are being encroached by urban sprawl that threatens their business and this will result in higher housing costs for the community. It is essential that any sale of public land considers any nearby construction material extraction or processing.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate in contacting our Secretariat on the above details. Although we are willing and able to present at a hearing if requested, we do not see any pressing need to.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Andrew
CMPA Project Manager